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**Backlund vs. Maivia:  
A FEUD ENDS IN A CAGE**

May 1979  
47727 \$1.00



# Wrestling

**DUSTY RHODES:**

**"I'LL MAKE HARLEY RACE  
CRY LIKE A BABY!"**

**HAS THE NWA  
BANNED RICK  
STEAMBOAT?**



**WHY BOBBY HEENAN WAS  
THROWN OUT OF THE AWA**





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INSIDE

# Wrestling

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# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter  
King

Editor-in-Chief

Wrestlers say the strangest things. This month's column will feature some of the more "quotable quotes" I've written down while visiting several arenas over the past month.

"At this stage of his career, I think Bob Backlund is better than Bruno was at the same point of his career. However, Bruno's real greatness became evident as time went on. Before Backlund can be called an all-time great, he must pass the toughest test of all--the test of time." --Arnold Skoaland, when asked to compare Bob Backlund with Bruno.

"Fans are morons. They keep paying money to see me and brother James get beat. I hope the fools got a lot of money, daddy, cause we ain't ever gonna lose!"--John Valiant, discussing his return to the WWWF.

"I never had a nightmare in my life. Until one day after Paul Jones attacked me. Now, sometimes I wake up covered by a cold sweat. It's frightening to know your life has been changed forever."--Rick Steamboat, on why he can never forgive Paul Jones.

"Too many people say everything came easy for me, was given to me on a silver platter. Well, I'm tired of hearing that. I work hard, train hard, and what I've become is because of me."--Greg Gagne, refuting charges that he's protected because he's Verne Gagne's son.

"You say five psychiatrists claim Bulldog Brower is fit to wrestle? well, doggone it, maybe they should be committed!"--Bruno Sammartino, after being told Bulldog Brower has returned to wrestling.

"The only bad part about being me is that I can't sit in the audience and watch myself wrestle. But I guess it only goes to show that life can be sad, y'know."--Ric Flair, being his modest self

"Owwwww! That hurts!!!!"--Harley Race, after being caught in Mike Graham's figure-four leglock.



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**A** GENTLE HUM of a tape recorder pierced the murmuring quiet of the hospital examination room. Dressed in the antiseptic colors of their trade, white smocks, white shirts and pale

eyes. "Obviously alert and aware of his surroundings," he retreated as Brower tried to shove the dressing gown down his throat.

Alert? Awake? I was witnessing a disgusting medical travesty. By



This picture best explains the condition of Bulldog Brower. Note the bulging eyes and the grotesque mouth. This expression was the same look Brower wore when he was "examined" by a group of doctors. I attended the checkup and the validity of the whole process was extremely questionable. I'm sure Captain Lou Albano had his dirty, stubby fingers involved in the mysterious affair. I still say Brower's nuts!

gray ties, the five psychiatrists approached the twitching, nearly unconscious creature lying on the table.

Bulldog Brower stuck out his tongue, watched it curl and deposit spittle down his chin. He chuckled and pulled on his left ear.

"Interesting," said a doctor, a tall, slender man with pale, freckled skin and thin, darting

pulling some strings, I was able to personally attend the final psychiatric examination of Bulldog Brower. Medical approval was necessary for the certificate of sanity Brower needed to re-enter the WWWF.

"Say ah," a doctor ordered as he thrust a wooden stick toward Brower's mouth. Bulldog

(Continued on page 48)



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# Body Slams & Pinfalls

By Dan Shocket

**N**OW IS THE time for all good people to come to the aid of wrestling. If the bureaucratic swine who control the AWA get away with this, no decent wrestler is safe.

Bobby Heenan has been suspended for life from managing AWA wrestlers. This has got to be the most blatant example of a conspiracy against a manager in wrestling history. Bobby Heenan has been punished for being too successful for too long. Wrestling fans all over the country must stand as one and shout, "SHAME!"

What excuse did the AWA czars give for exiling Bobby? Supposedly, Bobby got a little too physical with AWA president Stanley Blackburn. Perhaps punches were exchanged. If this was an attack and not a fair fight, why didn't Blackburn call the police and charge Bobby with assault? If the brawl was actually a pounding, a crime has been committed and justice should be done.

However, that would mean 12 jurors would decide if Heenan were innocent or guilty. Blackburn wouldn't want that to happen, not when he can "try" Bobby in front of a kangaroo court of the AWA officials. A jury of 12 honest people would find Bobby innocent of any crime. If he were innocent, there would



A concerned referee examines the facial cuts of manager and occasional wrestler Bobby Heenan. AWA president Stanley Blackburn was involved in a skirmish with Heenan. As a result, Heenan has been banned from the AWA for life!

be no excuse to have him banned. Blackburn wouldn't dare give Heenan a fair trial. It's much easier to take away his livelihood without even giving him a chance to defend himself. In doing this, Blackburn is not only spitting on wrestling but is also spitting on the American way of justice.

No one should be too surprised at the AWA. For years they have been looking to get Heenan (ever since Heenan's wrestler, the great Nick Bockwinkle, took the AWA title from Verne Gagne). Since then, Heenan has guided Nick through hundreds of victories. Bobby

also can claim overseeing several tag teams to the AWA tag team title. His record of success is unequaled by any manager in wrestling history. Bobby Heenan became too great for the AWA.

To crush Bobby, the cowardly association officials tried everything. Bobby took it all in stride. Wrestlers like Verne Gagne, Greg Gagne, and Jim Brunzell were given every illegal opportunity to conquer men managed by Heenan. But trying to stop greatness is like trying to stop time. Heenan prevailed.

*(Continued on page 52)*



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# TOP SECRET

## Behind the Dressing Room Door

by Randy  
Gordon



**A**BURNING QUESTION through-  
out wrestling circles re-  
mains: "Is Mr. Wrestling II going  
to become a rulebreaker?" You  
have heard the stories, rumors  
and lies. Now listen to what I  
believe is the truth. Analyze my  
version and make up your own  
mind as to what is fact and what  
is fiction.

I spoke to several prominent  
wrestlers in the NWA area. This  
is what they had to say about Mr.  
Wrestling II:

● Bobby Heenan—"Mr.  
Wrestling II is always coming up  
to me asking for favors, asking  
for advice, asking for tips that  
may help advance his career.  
You want to know what he really  
wants? He wants me to manage  
him, that's what he wants!"

● The Masked Superstar—  
"Mr. Wrestling II calls me day  
and night. He wants to become  
my tag team partner and rule  
the NWA."

● Tommy Rich—"The rule-  
breakers in this area are all  
jealous of Mr. Wrestling II.  
That's why they've started this  
rumor about him. They're trying  
to upset him, hoping it will affect  
his performance. It won't,  
though. He's too much of a  
professional. He has too much  
class for any of them."

● Ole Anderson—"I can't  
turn around without that  
masked man being there. The  
guy wants to be my friend. He  
wants to hang around me. You  
figure out what that means."

I spoke to many other  
wrestlers. I also spoke to the  
man himself, Mr. Wrestling II. To  
summarize our three hour  
conversation, he said, "My fans  
would be crushed, they'd be  
heartbroken if I ever became a  
rulebreaker. Just the thought of

*(Continued on page 56)*



# "Look who's smiling now!"

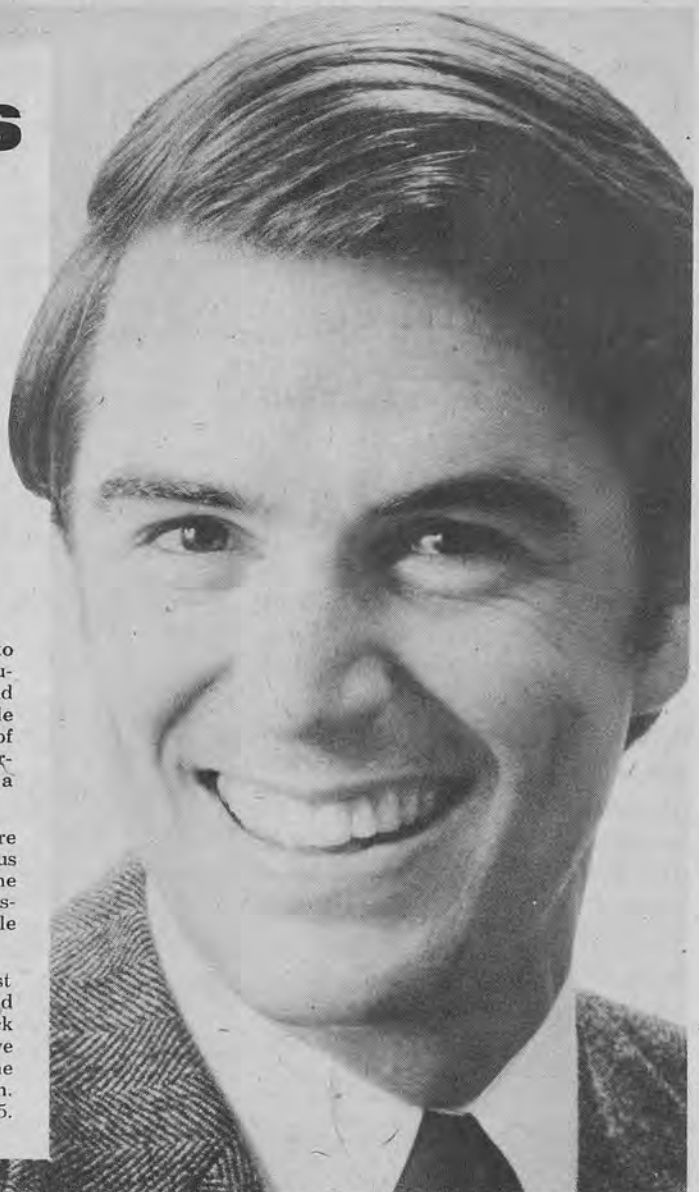
Sometimes a man sets his ambitions high enough to make skeptics smile. But how often he gets the last laugh! One of LaSalle's more successful graduates writes: "I now have my own accounting firm and make several times my former salary. My thanks to LaSalle."

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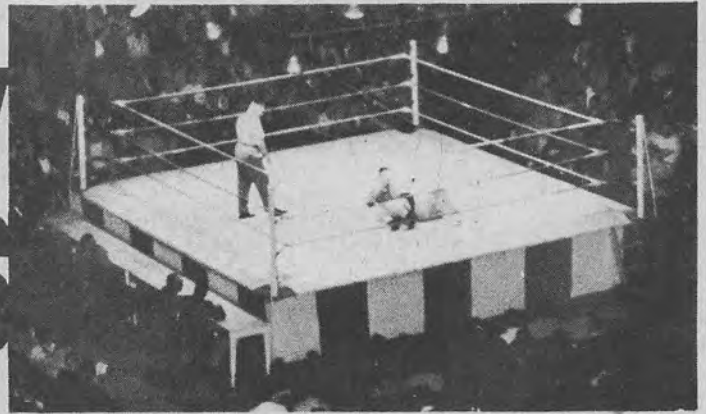
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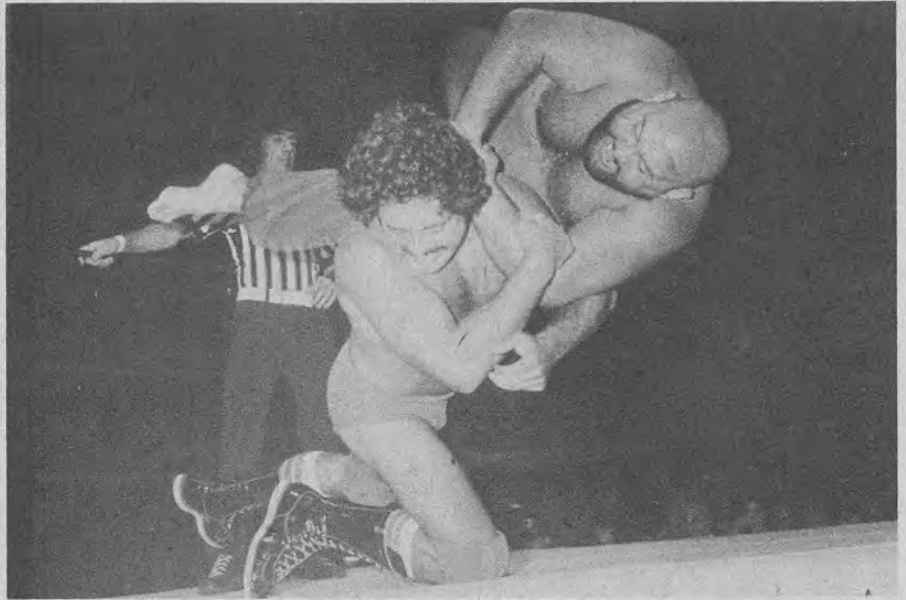


## KEEP IT UP, JIM!

Florida rulebreakers, watch out, because Jim Garvin is coming your way! That young man hasn't been in Florida long and already he's bashing skulls.

Want to know how smart he is? He's been in Florida for a little while and already he knows how to use the brain buster. I wouldn't be surprised one bit if he was the next world champion. And he's a good sport. What I mean is when he loses a match, he doesn't stomp his feet or throw a fit.

LISA FALSO  
Orlando, Fla.



Scientific wrestling superstar Jim Garvin flips Ali Bey to the mat (above). Lisa Falso of Orlando, Florida feels Garvin is always a good sport.



The hate is evident as WWWF champion Bob Backlund and converted rulebreaker Peter Maivia meet in mid-ring at Madison Square Garden (above). Reader Bert O'Leary of Hackensack, New Jersey believes Backlund still suffers from Maivia's betrayal.

## HORRIFYING!

For two men to hate each other so deeply is horrifying. I've been a fan for nearly fifteen years and I never recall reading about such hate between two wrestlers as Bob Backlund and Peter Maivia displayed in "Backlund vs. Maivia: A Matter of Hatred" (April 1979).

Honestly, I don't believe Backlund has really stopped feeling pain about Maivia's betrayal, despite what he said. I think this hatred will go on indefinitely and I'm afraid it can only have a bad ending.

BERT O'LEARY  
Hackensack, N.J.



## HE MAKES ME SICK

I know nothing can really be done about creeps like Masked Superstar. I know shrinks have tried to put him away and scientific wrestlers have tried to drive him away. Maybe if fans banded together we could do something effective.

Profiling a goon like that is wrong. Where are your standards? I know you have to write about rulebreakers and they deserve press. But to quote a maniac like that is evil.

JOE CRECK

Charleston, S.C.



The beloved Mr. Wrestling II signs an autograph (above). Will he betray his faithful fans?

## FRIGHTENING TREND

The fact that you'd even consider writing an article about scientific wrestlers turning rulebreaker ("Is Mr. Wrestling II Next?" / April 1979), indicates this newest and most alarming trend in professional wrestling. I was upset when Peter Maivia and Paul Jones turned rulebreaker, but I always thought they had an inclination toward that type of behavior.

To question Mr. Wrestling II's integrity raises very serious questions about the morals of everyone in this sport. He has always remained faithful to both his principles and his fans. Such

articles only create more rumor and then people begin to feel they have to live up to these rumored expectations.

Don't listen, Ill!

MARLA OSCAVIO

Atlanta, Ga.

Converted rulebreaker Paul Jones casually rips up a picture of his former friend and tag team partner Rick Steamboat (below). Reader Linda Roulet of Nashville, Tennessee thinks the breakup may have been Steamboat's fault. Most fans disagree.



## ON A STRANGE PLANE

Jack Brisco and Dory Funk Jr. seem to be talking on a totally different level than most wrestlers in their "One On One" encounters in your April issue of INSIDE WRESTLING.

Most grapplers just yell and holler at their rivals, but Brisco and Funk show enough class to calmly discuss things, even if they disagree.

I found their exchange rather refreshing. It showed a side of wrestlers we fans don't normally get to see.

By the way, I love that feature.

RAY DAVIS

Austin, Texas

## NICE GUYS DO FINISH LAST

Supporting scientific wrestlers is second-nature to me. Never have I rooted for a rulebreaker. Your "Hot Seat" interview with Paul Jones (April 1979) changed that. I was deeply moved by his plight. It makes you see another side. I understand how frustrated Jones must have been.

Maybe Steamboat isn't really nice. Maybe he did try to dump on Jones. I will still boo rulebreakers.

But I've become a Paul Jones fan.

LINDA ROULET

Nashville, Tenn. □

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# THE INSIDER

By STEVEN FARHOOD

## SCOOP OF THE MONTH

Abdullah the Butcher is an incredibly graceful, fluid, exciting disco dancer! Generally, I don't like to write about the wrestlers' personal lives, but I had to share this fantastic fact with you.

Our office received a phone call from a man with a thick Arab accent last week. He said that he noticed that Abdullah the Butcher, a close friend of his, never receives any good press coverage from our magazines.

"I have spoken to Abdullah about this and he suggested that you come down and do a story about his excellent dancing in the Atlanta discos. Considering how many bad things you have written about him, we think it's only fair that you show the good side," the Arab man said.

I spoke with my boss, Matt Brock, and he said to catch the next plane to Atlanta and do the story. I was glad but scared.

Landing at Hartsfield International Airport at 9 p.m., I was greeted by the strange Arab man who called our office. He spoke sparingly as we drove straight to Abdullah's regular hangout, a small downtown Atlanta disco.

The overbearing sound of blaring Bee Gee's music greeted us as we walked in after paying a hefty cover charge. I



Watch out, John Travolta! Abdullah the Butcher is shaking, bumping and boogeyin to the music of the Bee Gee's. I saw it with my own eyes! The man can really dance. He is a very popular attraction at an Atlanta disco. Shake, Abdullah, shake.

almost fainted. There was Abdullah the Butcher, noted maniacal rulebreaker and berserk animal, boogeying in the middle of a crowded dance floor! He was bare chested, wearing his usual white pants, Sudanese headgear and a strange belt that bore his name. His rhythm was excellent and his arms and legs moved gracefully to the beat of the music.

After making myself comfortable at the bar, I asked the bartender to introduce me to the owner of the disco, a black man named Charlie Framas.

Charlie is a short, thin man with gobs of gold jewelry adorning his little fingers. He was very friendly and told me

about the Butcher.

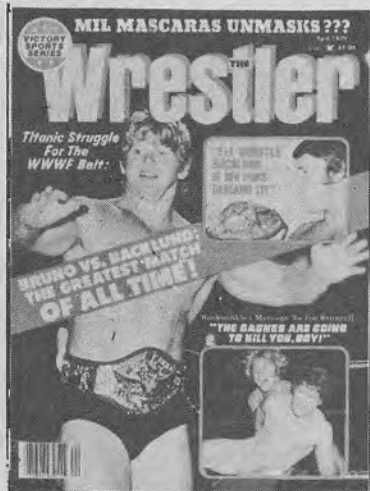
"No, Steve, this is no setup. Abdullah has been coming here regularly for a number of months. His dancing has improved drastically. He is very popular with the other customers because they all know that he is a very famous wrestler. Of course he doesn't speak to anyone since he barely understands English. But whenever a check needs to be paid or someone wants an autograph, his interpreter (the man who picked me up at the airport) is always around to help out."

I asked Charlie if Abdullah's dancing style offered any unusual moves or habits. He giggled. (Continued on page 62)

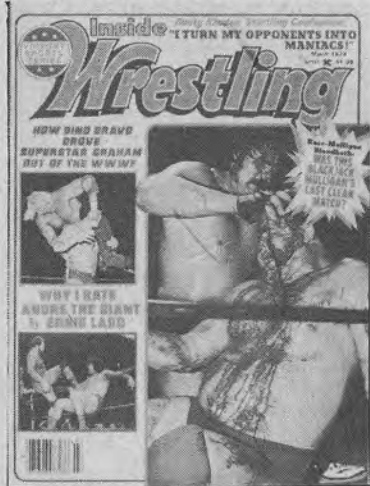


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# NAMES MAKI

WWWF champion **BOB BACKLUND** admits being "petrified" of wrestling **BULLDOG BROWER**. "This man is a psycho!" Bob said while discussing the inevitable match against Brower. "I am a wrestler and want wrestling competition. Why do I have to go against a man who bites, gouges eyes and hopes to maim his opponent? Why? What is the WWWF trying to do to me by giving me a maniac like this to



**BOB BACKLUND**

wrestle? I am afraid to get into the ring against him. He'll try to kill me!" Brower's manager, **CAPTAIN LOU ALBANO**, claims the Bulldog won't kill Bobby. "He'll just cripple him and mess his face up so bad his mommy and daddy won't even know him!"

First it was **DUSTY RHODES**. Now NWA champion **HARLEY RACE** says **ANDRE THE GIANT** has been getting too many shots at his title. "Neither of them can whip me, it's as simple as that," Race boasts. "I could probably



**RHODES VS. RACE**

take both of those freaks on in the same night and not even work up a sweat." Harley fails to admit that each match with Rhodes or Andre ends with controversy. He always holds his title by a technicality. He has never convincingly beaten either one of them. Sounds like he's running scared!

**PAUL ORNDORFF** and **JIMMY SNUKA** amaze the critics by holding onto the NWA tag team belts. Most people felt they would



**NICK BOCKWINKLE**

hold the title for only a few weeks. **BOBBY HEENAN** is now officially managing in Georgia. He has set up his plush office and is recruiting new talent to join his "family." Meanwhile AWA president **Stanley Blackburn** reports that AWA champion **NICK BOCKWINKLE** seems to be making the adjustment to wrestling without a manager. "Heenan will be back," Bockwinkel swears . . . **PAMPERO FIRPO** is back in the United States after a very successful world tour. He plans to bid for all three major titles . . . **JERRY LAWLER** and **BILL DUNDEE** are chasing the AWA southern heavyweight tag team titles. Dundee is one of the hottest stars in wrestling . . . **THE GRAND WIZARD** has taken matters to court: He wants the WWWF to take the ban off the figure-four leglock so **GREG VALENTINE** can use it legally once again. That hold has been deemed illegal, but Greg continues to use it. He absorbs fines each time he does.

**RIC FLAIR** has gone into seclusion, grooming himself for an upcoming shot at the NWA title in St. Louis, Missouri . . . **LARRY ZBYSZKO** and **TONY GAREA** have issued a challenge to Mid-Atlantic tag team kings **KEN PATERA** and **JOHN STUDD**. Studd and Patera claim, "We are too busy to even answer those clods" . . . **BLACKJACK MULLIGAN** has asked Georgia promoters to secure him a match against **BLACKJACK LANZA**. The two friends are anxious to settle their differences in mid-ring! **BOBBY HEENAN**, who managed both wrestlers, is trying to ward off



# N' NEWS

Bill Apter  
reporting...

the possible confrontation. "I'm certain I can make peace," assures Heenan.

MARK LEWIN has both DAVID and KEVIN VON ERICH furious. Mark convinced a local Texas newspaper to print that he pinned both brothers in a gym. The Von Erichs are seeking revenge for this vicious lie... OLE ANDERSON and IVAN KOLOFF hold the Georgia tag team title again... MIL MASCARAS would like to bring his brother DOS CARAS into the WWF area. He wants to team with his



**DAVID VON ERICH**

brother and oppose THE VALIANT BROTHERS.

RICK STEAMBOAT is very depressed. Although he holds the U.S. championship, he says, "Things just don't feel like they're going right for me."... A proposed match between former WWF



**BRUNO  
SAMMARTINO**



**STAN HANSEN**

champion BRUNO SAMMARTINO and current champion BOB BACKLUND may be close to realization. A legal representative told us that only a few details need to be tied up before the match is set... STAN HANSEN is causing AWA scientific grapplers to run and hide... AWA tag team champion PAT PATTERSON and RAY STEVENS may be



**PEDRO MORALES**

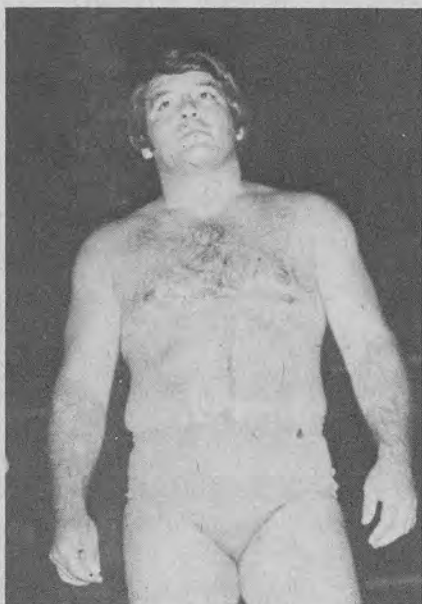
unbeatable. The best teams in the association have failed to take the blond duo's title.

"Outlaw" RON BASS is quickly destroying his opponents in New Orleans... MR. WRESTLING II is after Bass' hide. "When I catch up with that turkey, he's finished!" II vows... PAUL JONES is feuding with PAUL ORNDORFF. Jones feels that Orndorff, like RICK STEAMBOAT, is a braggart without talent... MAD DOG VACHON is still teaming with VERNE GAGNE. Believe it or not, the combination is great. Look for them to go for the AWA tag team title in the very near future.

Fans of DEAN HO in the WWF hope the rumors of his return are true... BOBO BRAZIL has returned to St. Louis, the site of some of his greatest victories... PEDRO MORALES is wrestling in the Mid-Atlantic region... IVAN PUTSKI received the "Polish Humanitarian Award" for the third consecutive year.

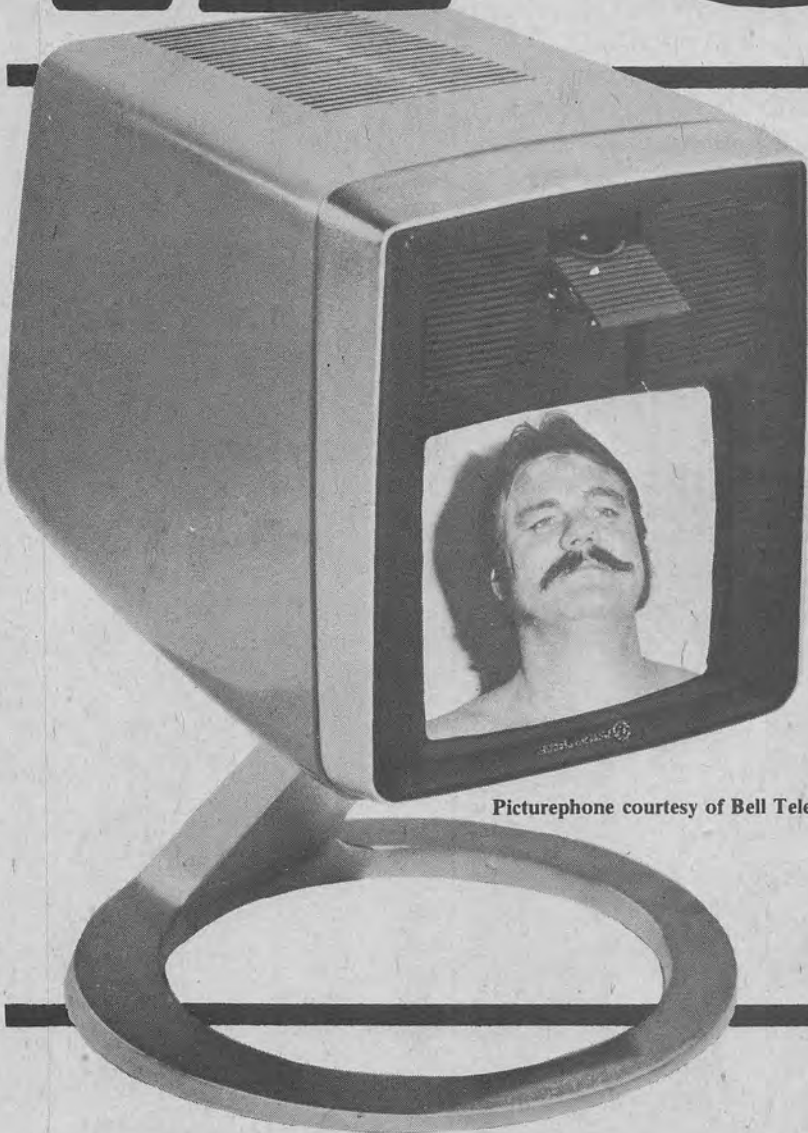
That's all for now, see you next month. □

# ONE ON



Converted rulebreaker Paul Jones stands proudly in ring center.

*(A wrenching role reversal has affected both men's wrestling philosophies. One was a member of a hated trio which viciously terrorized the Mid-Atlantic region. One day he changed and adopted the ways of a scientific wrestler, dismissing evil and treachery. The other was a former Mid-Atlantic tag team champion. A scientific wrestler baked in simmering resentment against partner Rick Steamboat. At the conclusion of a battle royal, the frustrations erupted into a shocking attack. A rulebreaker was born. From his*



Picturephone courtesy of Bell Telephone.

*training quarters in Amarillo, Blackjack Mulligan debates Richmond-based Paul Jones in a stunning discussion).*

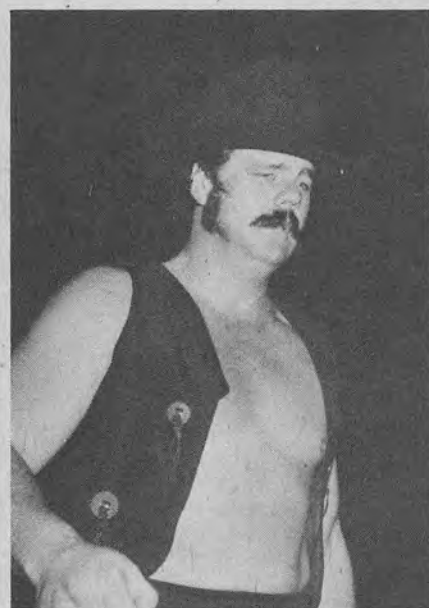
**BLACKJACK MULLIGAN:**  
What you say, Jones?  
Things have changed since we last spoke.

---

**Every month the telephone wires will crackle as two top grapplers rage and argue. We'll print the unedited transcript of their conversations, giving the fans a privileged glimpse at wrestlers which can be found nowhere else**



# NONE



The tall, lanky cowboy, Blackjack Mulligan, now a fan favorite.

**PAUL JONES:**

I like the ring to your phony words.

**BM:** Already? I thought we might talk about your changing.

**PJ:** What about yours? Though mine is more interesting.

**BM:** Why? Stabbing a friend in the back is suddenly fun?

**PJ:** Nope. I've never stabbed a friend in the back.

**BM:** (Loud laughter) Get off it, Jones. What's Steamboat, the Earl of Sandwich?

**PJ:** He was never a friend. I'd never turn on a friend. That's what people can't understand. The pretty-boys like Steamboat are not my friends and they're not your friends. They're underhanded worms who'll sell you right down the tubes.

Like Steamboat did with me.

**BM:** Spare me your wounded thoughts.

**PJ:** I'll pause for you to figure out the big words.

**BM:** Talk about friends. You like guys like Valentine and Flair?

**PJ:** They're honest.

**BM:** Honest? Damn, Jones, you're in for a mighty big fall. You're so amazingly naive. Flair was plotting against me the minute the crowd went berserk after an especially exciting match. He always conspired. You think people hate him and Valentine just 'cause they're vicious?

**PJ:** No, I didn't . . .

**BM:** Because you can't trust  
(Continued on page 46)

# NEWS FROM THE

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to: Correspondent Editor, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571

## ORLANDO, FLA.

By Connie Alexander



**DUSTY RHODES  
VS.  
PAK SONG**



The main event was a Korean assassin match between Dusty Rhodes and Pak Song. Dusty was whipping Song until manager Sonny King handed Song a belt. With this illegal object, Pak Song tried to choke the "American Dream." Huffing and puffing, Dusty drew on his last reserves of strength to rip the belt away and throw Pak Song out of the ring for the victory.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Jim Garvin retained his Florida heavyweight title with a victory over Ali Bey . . . Rocky Johnson and Mr. Uganda drew . . . Thor the Viking upset Jos LeDuc.

## NEW HAVEN, CONN.

By Alan Przybysz



**IVAN PUTSKI  
VS.  
IVAN KOLOFF**



A brutal match threw two arch-rivals into one long, sustained bloodbath. In less than 24 minutes, Ivan Koloff was disqualified for hitting the special guest referee, Chief Jay Strongbow, who had to award the match to an exhausted but happy Putski.

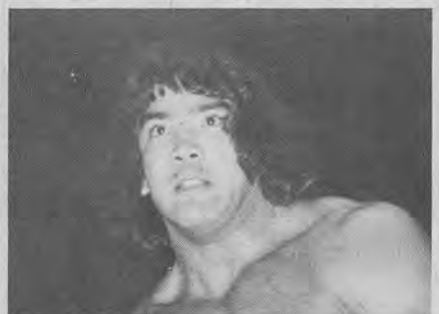
**OTHER BOUTS:** Lumberjack Pierre ousted Tony Russo . . . Baron Scicluna whipped Frank Williams . . . Victor Rivera outlasted S.D. Jones . . . Stan Stasiak and Larry Zbyszko were both disqualified for hitting the referee . . . Chief Peter Maivia bopped Tony Garea.

## CHARLESTON, S.C.

By Donna Petrowski



**PAUL JONES  
VS.  
RICK STEAMBOAT**

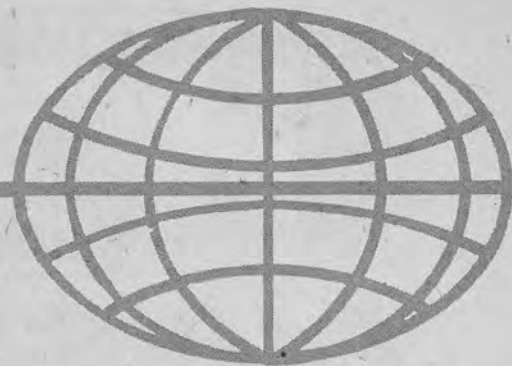


Ex-tag team partners Paul Jones and United States heavyweight titlist Rick Steamboat tangled in a vicious bout. Hatred, contempt, and prestige were the fragile weapons they used to carve huge chunks of flesh from each other's bodies. When the blood settled, both were disqualified for hitting the referee.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Dino Bravo bested Greg Valentine when the blond rulebreaker was disqualified. Jay Youngblood and Herb Gallant were smashed by Sgt. Jacques Goulet and Brute Bernard . . . Abe Jacobs triumphed over Frank Monte.



# WRESTLING CAPITALS



## WAYNESBORO, VA.

By Scott Via



### BLACKJACK MULLIGAN VS. RIC FLAIR



A cruel brawl captured Blackjack Mulligan and Ric Flair in its unrelenting savagery. From start to finish, these two men were brutally aggressive. Mulligan used his clawhold with little apparent success. Flair used his rulebreaking maneuvers, yet Mulligan evaded their menaceful objectives. Finally, Flair was disqualified.

**OTHER BOUTS:** John Studd stopped an impressive Skip Young . . . Mr. X I stomped Richard Blood . . . Steve Regal won by decision over Charlie Fulton.

## MEMPHIS, TENN.

By Troy Rigg



### JIM VALIANT VS. NICK BOCKWINKLE



Unpredictable "Handsome" Jim Valiant took aim at Nick Bockwinkel's AWA belt. With the crowd loudly supporting him, Valiant immediately gained control of the match. He might have won, if not for Bobby Heenan's treachery. By distracting the referee, Heenan was able to slip Bockwinkel a towel, which he used to strangle Valiant. Fortunately, Bockwinkel was disqualified though he retained his title.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Terry Sawyer won by disqualification over Nelson Royal . . . Jackie Welch won a loser-leave-town match over Mr. Wrestling . . . Wayne Farris and Tommy Gilbert stopped Frankie Lane and Mike Boyer.

## WINNIPEG, CAN.

By Jimmy Williams



### MIGHTY IGOR VS. SUPER DESTROYER II



Beloved Mighty Igor met 320-pound master of pain, Super Destroyer II. With Super Destroyer II nearly conquered, his manager, Lord Al Hays, leaped into the ring and fought with Igor. Super Destroyer II attacked Igor from behind and denied the Polish strongman a sure victory.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Billy Robinson topped the Iron Sheik . . . Verne Gagne teamed with Mad Dog Vachon to form a bizarre yet successful tag team which dumped Ray Stevens and Pat Patterson in a non-title cage match. □

# HOTSEAT

## **DUSTY RHODES: "I'LL MAKE HARLEY RACE CRY LIKE A BABY!"**

**A**T ONE TIME, all three major belts have been agonizingly close to his thick grasp. On numerous occasions some inexplicable event emerged to deprive him of the championship. Despite being a huge fan favorite and despite winning such coveted awards as the Antonino Rocca Trophy and Most Popular Wrestler, his career remains in tormented dissatisfaction. He desperately wants to win a title and dispell the vicious rumors which tarnish his achievements. They say he'll never be champion. He says they're wrong. He is Dusty Rhodes.

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY  
BILL APTER

**Q:** Dusty, I know you're a busy man so I'll get right to the questions.

**A:** Never too busy for INSIDE WRESTLING, Apter.

**Q:** How do you feel when critics attack your failure to win a major title?

**A:** Mad as a hornet in the desert,

Bill. So many people are so shallow and can't understand how someone who's never won a title can still be a success.

**Q:** Could you elaborate on that?

**A:** Take all my awards. They've been given to me by people

---

**“**

**I think the two biggest reasons I haven't won the title have been the behavior of my foes and my own temper. Seems every time I think I've won, something comes up and I'm denied.**

**”**

---

who I respect. Take the voting from the fans when they selected me as Best Wrestler and Most Popular. I won those awards fair and square. Not like when I win a title and they reverse the decision because the rulebreaker did

some fooling around.

**Q:** So the feelings of the fans are more important than winning a belt?

**A:** Yes and no. See, what I do, I do for me and the fans who love and support me. That's two different things.

**Q:** Are they compatible?

**A:** Sometimes. When the fans vote me awards, they're compatible. But my pursuit of the title, while it is for the fans, it's also a lot for me. I want the title now.

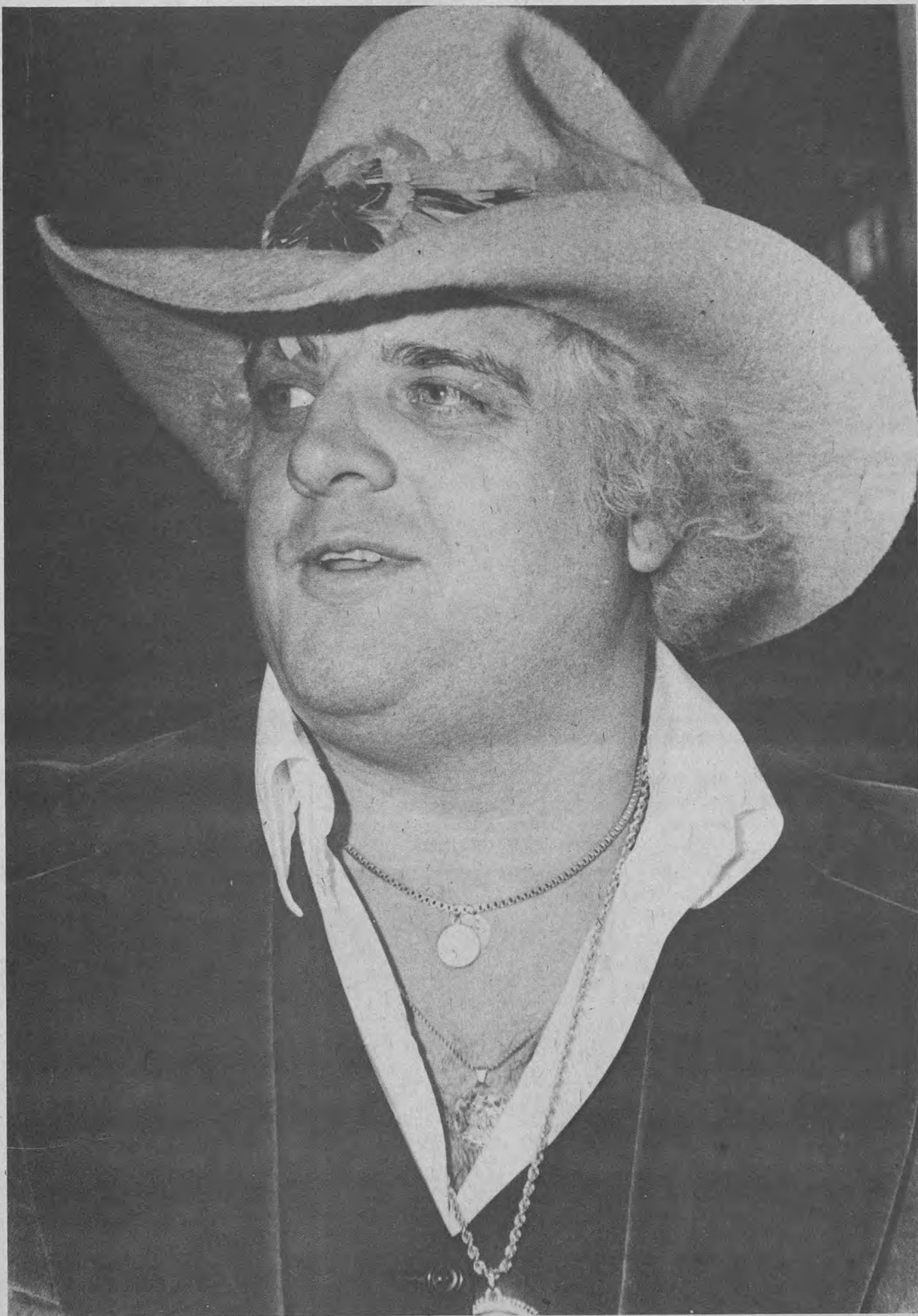
**Q:** Why do you think you've been unsuccessful so far?

**A:** You can say "failed."

**Q:** It's kind of harsh.

**A:** Only if you give it that meaning. I think the two biggest reasons I haven't won the title have been the behavior of my foes and my own temper. Seems every time I think I've won, something comes up and I'm denied. But I have to blame myself as well. I've got an awfully volatile temper. Lots of times I've







“

**I want to wrestle Bobby Backlund. I want to do that, man. I'd love to wrestle Bobby in Shea Stadium with a million people screaming and hollering my name.**

”

loused myself up and gotten disqualified. Those reasons are the major roadblocks.

**Q:** Have you overcome them?

**A:** Again, yes and no, Apter. There's not much I can do about rulebreakers. Hell, they're bad and that's that. I have taken steps toward cooling down my temper. But the big thing is my new hold. That'll win me the belt.

**Q:** What is it?

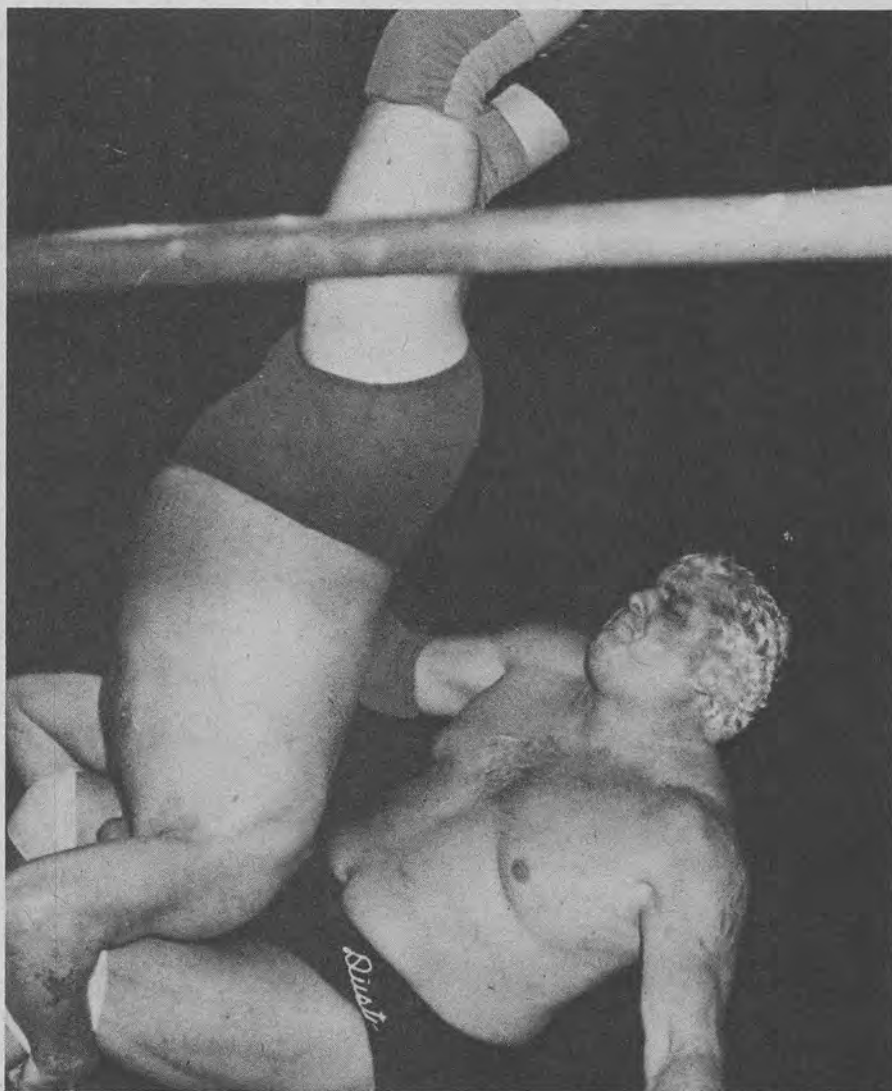
**A:** Oh, no.

**Q:** Won't tell?

**A:** I'll say this much. It's the sort of hold no one has ever used before. I'll make Harley Race cry like a baby and beg for mercy. I'll give mercy, but not before I've won the title.

**Q:** Is it more powerful than the elbowsmash?

**A:** Yup.



Dusty Rhodes piledrives NWA champion Harley Race (above). Harley picks Dusty up, but Dusty has Race by the chin (below) during one of their most memorable title encounters.



**Q:** Able to leap bodies in a single bound?

**A:** Yup.

**Q:** Could you give a little hint?

**A:** Only for you, Billy-boy. It combines my awesome strength and agility with one magic ingredient. Cunning strategy. There's no way to escape it. It's the most marvelous hold in the history of the sport.

**Q:** Are you concentrating mainly on Race?

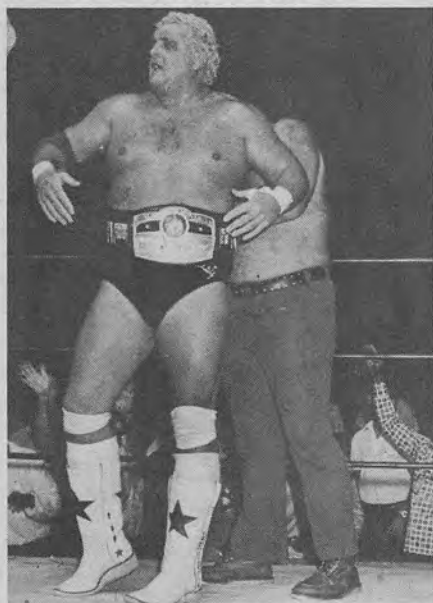
**A:** No way, Jack. I want to wrestle Bobby Backlund. I want to do that, man. I'd love to wrestle Bobby in Shea Stadium with a million people screaming and hollering my name.

**Q:** What about Bockwinkle? You've only wrestled him a couple of times.





Dusty's attempts at a spinning toe-hold are delayed as Race kicks the "Dream" in the stomach (above). The fans rejoice as Rhodes wears the belt after apparently whipping Race (below left). But Rhodes is denied again as the referee strips Dusty of the belt due to a technicality (below right).



A: Bockwinkle. I salivate at the thought of getting into a ring with him. I want him also.  
 Q: You want everyone.  
 A: Just the champs, Apter. I'm gunning for the belt.  
 Q: You're not just a wrestler, but an entertainer as well.  
 A: Yeah, I've cut some songs,

country and western, and disco. I like to branch out and do a lot of different things.  
 Q: Could you speculate what it would be like to be champion. I mean, you must think about it.  
 A: Oh, I have my fantasies. I imagine standing over a



**“Oh, I have my fantasies. I imagine standing over a crumpled Harley Race. His face would be smeared in blood. His leg would twitch, kinda. Fans would be shrieking wildly, baby.”**

crumpled Harley Race. His face would be smeared in blood. His leg would twitch, kinda. Fans would be shrieking wildly, baby. They'd be chanting my name over and over again until the arena would threaten to collapse. And then they'd give me that beautiful belt and I'd put it on and kinda dance around the ring.

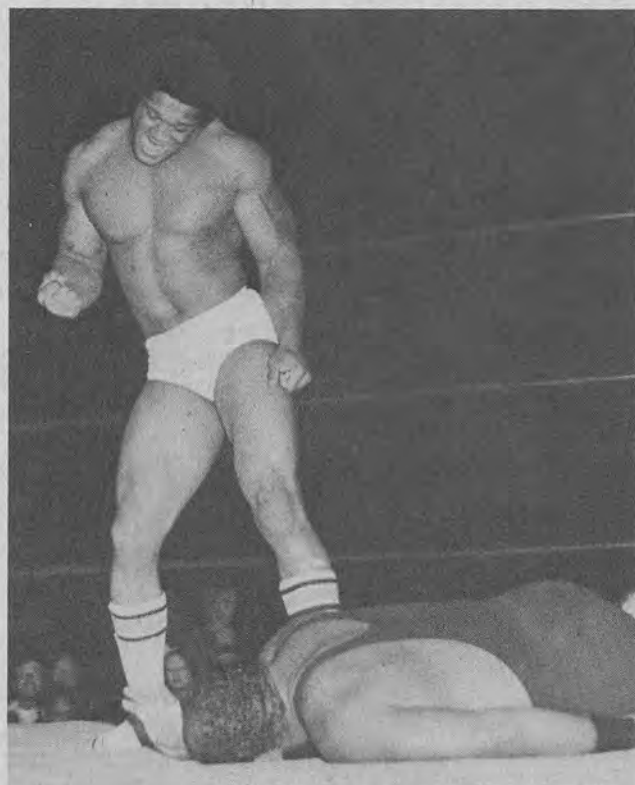
Q: And then?  
 A: I wake up.  
 Q: Would this be the pinnacle of your career, winning a title?  
 A: Yeah, but there's more important things.  
 Q: Like?  
 A: Fans loving me. That makes everything worthwhile.  
 Q: Dusty, thanks a million.  
 A: No sweat, Apter. □



# Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

**NEW ORLEANS, LA.:** What a town! Been to almost every great city in this country (and to almost every bar too, though I think I missed one in San Antonio), but nothing matches New Orleans. Jazz, creole cooking, the Mississippi River, and some of the best wrestling around. Shocked when I saw who won a big tag team tourney down here. Andre the Giant and Dusty Rhodes! The moves they use together could shake the ants off a melted Hershey bar. Rhodes seems to get along with Andre as well. he told me that Andre's habits are a little different than his on the road (the Giant is in bed by 10 p.m. when Dusty is just starting to boogie on Bourbon Street), but in the ring they get down together. Jerry Brown and Bobby Jagers are another tag team pair to watch.

**TALLAHASSEE, FLA.:** Ugh, the warm sunshine tends to dry me out. But Ol' Brock still likes to peek at the tanned female bodies on the old ocean. Reminds me I was young once, a century or so ago. But in the arena it was all business. Got a good look at Jos LeDuc. The guy was once a hero. Now everyone hates him. Another scientific wrestler has sold out. Sad. Glad to see Steve Keirn getting around okay. He's fine kid. I hope he returns to the form that made him a super performer. I also hope he stays away from me and my kind. According to the always accurate Brock clock, he'll be a champion before the peach fuzz starts to grow on his young face.



**TONY ATLAS**

**RALEIGH, N.C.:** Couldn't attend the big match down here. Felt a little sick when I woke up. I guess the Brock critics may have a point when they claim I'm getting on in years. Watched the great Tony Atlas on television in Joe's Tavern with my longtime Raleigh friend, Chris Wheat. We drank some pitchers of brew, shot some eight-ball and commented on Atlas' brilliant talents. We agree he can't miss as a future champion. Didn't think I could still get excited by young talent.



Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

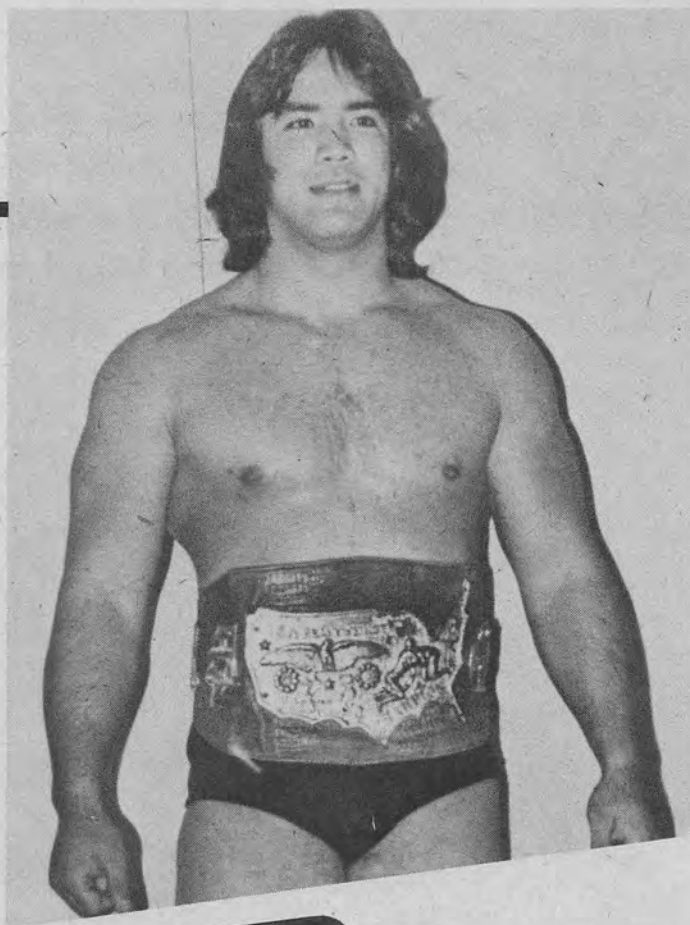


## BULLDOG BROWER

**ST. PAUL, MINN.:** The biggest news in wrestling this year! And I was here when it happened! Brock still has the nose for news. Bobby Heenan attacked the president of the AWA and has been banned from managing in the territory forever! A great for wrestling. You all know what I think of Heenan. Never liked him since he insulted me on a local talk show. Said I couldn't write a children's poem with a crayon. Low blow. The AWA will be better off without him. I bet some of his wrestlers like Orton Jr. and Bockwinkle will be better off without him. Verne Gagne, Hennig, Brunzell, Igor and I all went out to Clancy's Bar to celebrate.

**NEW YORK, N.Y.:** I'm probably the only person happy to see Bulldog Brower back in wrestling. It gives me a chance to tell my classic Brower story. Happened about 10 years ago in a little bar in upstate New York. Brower was enjoying a beer when one guy gets rowdy, saying Brower's an out-of-shape baboon who couldn't kill a chicken unless he sat on it. Brower said nothing, content to let the other guy do all the talking. Soon everyone in the bar gathered behind the guy, thinking they'd found themselves a new hero. Finally, Bulldog finished his drink, turned around, took the mug, and smashed it on the floor. He looked at the mob, rolled his eyes, and told the assemblage it had 10 seconds to clear the bar. The bar was deserted with five seconds left to go. □

# HAS THE NWA BANNED RICK STEAMBOAT

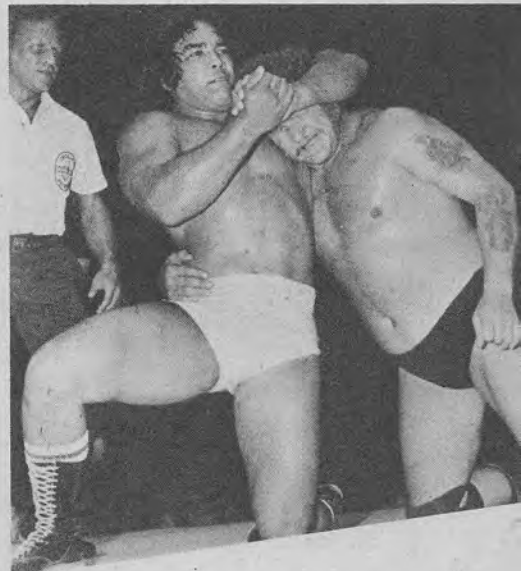


**S**UCCESS DEMANDS A fear-some price. Just ask United State champion Rick Steambot. After pummeling Ric Flair's face from one end of the Mid-Atlantic area to the other, Steambot's sensational career appeared ready to blossom.

He had everything: Looks, talent and fans. Attacking Harley Race's NWA title seemed the next logical step. To ensure a title bout, Steambot presented to the NWA the thousands of fan letters that



## A horrible conspiracy may be denying Rick Steamboat a title shot. And the finger of blame swivels slowly toward NWA champ Harley Race



NWA king Harley Race is in agony as Ricky Steamboat applies an effective armlock (above left). Steamboat keeps control of the match with a perfectly executed headlock (above right). As the action begins outside the ring, Ricky bodyslams a tired champion (below). Is Race ducking Steamboat?

# STEAMBOAT?

were written demanding Rick be given a title bout.

A petition several feet long containing a few thousand legitimate signatures would be powerfully persuasive upon the NWA. Right?

*Wrong.*

"I went up the NWA officials and hinted very nicely, that it would be about time for me to wrestle Race," said Steamboat. "I told them I'd proven myself by beating Flair and that the fans of the area wanted it."

And then they said . . .

"Not yet. They said wrestlers don't make matches and all my fans didn't mean a thing to them. I

couldn't believe it! They were so damn arrogant to me," Steamboat said.

It wasn't so much *what* the NWA said as *how* they said it.

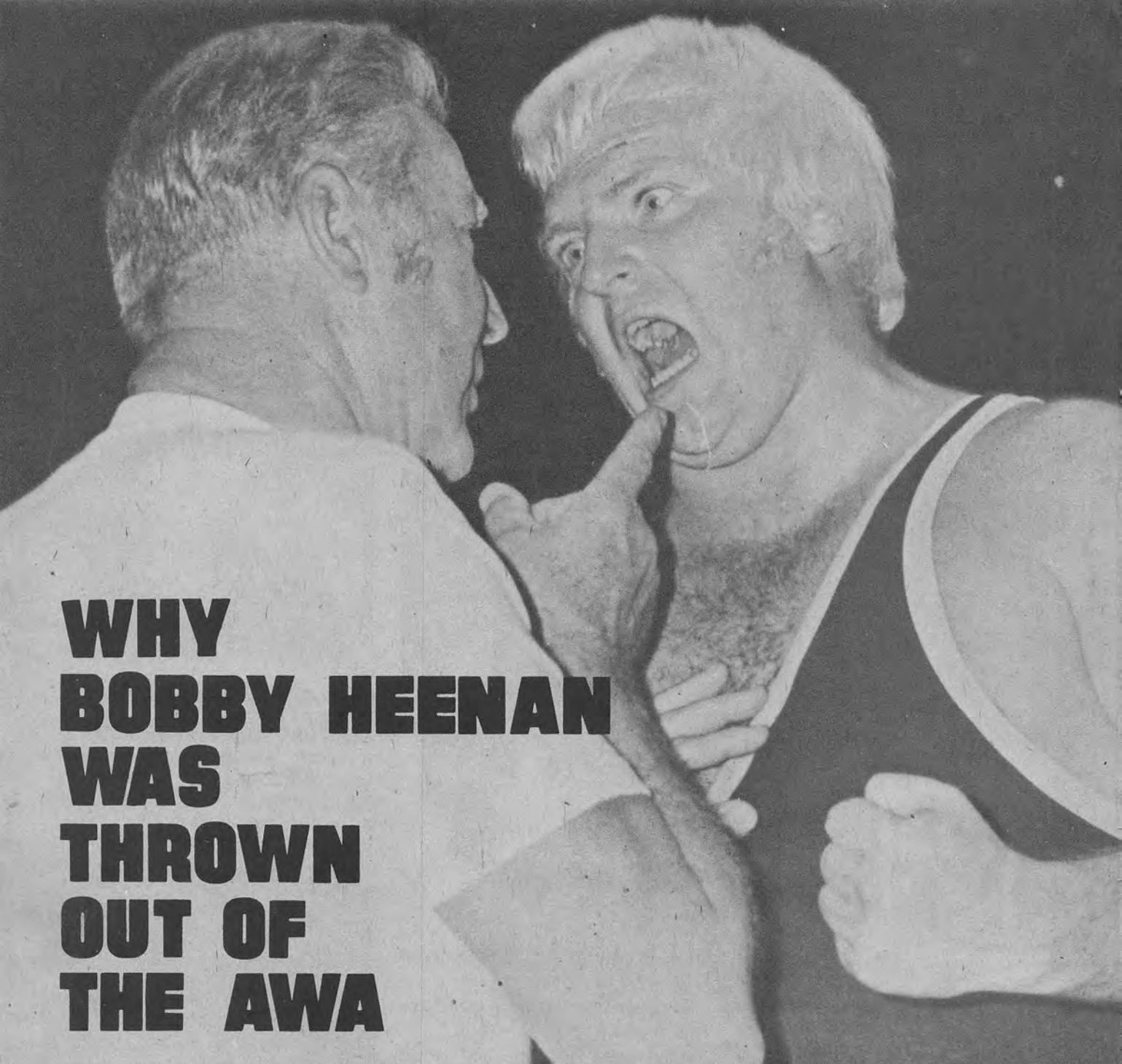
"Whenever I mentioned Race, they got real nervous and testy. They said I hadn't proven myself and I countered by saying Race was wrestling people less talented than I am. Still, there was just something rotten in the air.

"Does it make sense that a United States title and thousands of fan letters mean nothing? Just doesn't make sense," Steamboat said, shaking his head.

While fan opinions are crucial, let us push them aside and focus coolly on the why's of the NWA's decision.

(Continued on page 50)





# **WHY BOBBY HEENAN WAS THROWN OUT OF THE AWA**

**A**LL AWA WRESTLING fans are in a state of boundless joy. Celebrations shake the arenas. Wrestlers share in the ecstasy.

Bobby Heenan has been suspended from the AWA! Yes, read it again for it sounds so sweet. Bobby Heenan has been suspended from the AWA.

For years, Heenan's arrogance has carried him to treacherous plots and vicious incidents. This cocky attitude led him to believe

he was invincible and he could do anything to anybody without fear of reprisal.

Then he went one step too far. He made that one fateful mistake.

An argument with AWA president Stanley Blackburn over bookings for Heenan's "family" heated up. Harsh, threatening words were hurled. Reportedly, some punches were also thrown. Obviously, Heenan thought he could intimidate the alliance president.

He was very mistaken. In a devastatingly swift decision, Blackburn issued a "lifetime suspension" of Heenan.

"He won't get away with this, that sniveling toad," shouted Heenan. "He has no legal ground for this and I'll haul him through the courts and the gutter to get my vengeance."

Brave, hollow words. Whatever Heenan's contentions, the suspension is legally enforceable. Only through



**Finally, justice prevails!  
After years of evil scheming, Bobby Heenan  
went too far.  
Now he must pay for his crimes, as  
others have paid before**

**WU**  
western union

**Telegram**

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PMS WALLY KARBO,

MINNEAPOLIS MN

AS OF JANUARY 10TH, WRESTLING PRIVILEGES AND ALL MANAGERIAL ACTIVITIES EXTENDED TO BOBBY HEENAN BY AWA HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED AND REVOKED INDEFINITELY BY THIS GOVERNING BODY. THE LAST UNACCEPTABLE ACTION BY BOBBY HEENAN HAS BEEN REVIEWED BY A SPECIAL COMMITTEE AND ITS CONCLUSION IS ADAMANT AND THERE WILL BE NO RECONSIDERATION.

STANLEY BLACKBURN, PRESIDENT, AWA

NNNN

The telegram from the President of the AWA, Stanley Blackburn, explains it all (above). Most experts believe a reconsideration by the AWA administrators is very unlikely. Heenan will probably never be back! Heenan receives an award for his managing from AWA promoter Wally Karbo in 1976 (below). Surrounding Bobby are several members of his family, including Blackjack Lanza, Nick Bockwinkel, Ray Stevens and Bob Duncum. Lanza plans to follow Heenan to Georgia.

Blackburn's direct revocation can Heenan return.

"Heenan can't come back until he mends his ways," Blackburn said.

Actually, the real question to be answered is this: What becomes of the AWA and Heenan's "family," with Bobby in exile? Just before Heenan's suspension, one of his wrestlers, Cowboy Bob Orton Jr., also suffered a suspension

(Continued on page 54)



# INSIDE WRESTLING'S

# OFFICIAL RATINGS

These Ratings Are Compiled With The Assistance Of Top Wrestlers, Promoters, And Reporters. They Are Universally Accepted As Official

## World Wide Wrestling Federation

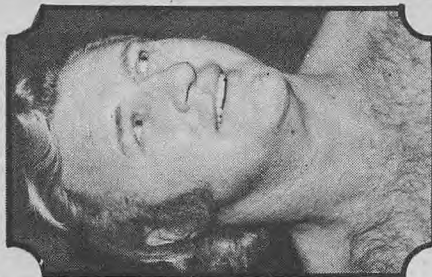


Champion:  
BOB BACKLUND



1—BULLDOG  
BROWER

## American Wrestling Association



Champion:  
NICK BOCKWINKLE



1—JIM BRUNZELL

## National Wrestling Alliance



Champion:  
HARLEY RACE



1—RICK  
STEAMBOAT

## Most Popular Wrestlers



1—DUSTY RHODES



2—RICK  
STEAMBOAT

## Most Hated Wrestlers



1—BULLDOG  
BROWER



2—RIC FLAIR

## Tag Teams



1—PAT PATTERSON  
& RAY STEVENS







2—GREG  
VALENTINE



3—PETER MAIVIA



4—DUSTY RHODES

- 5—IVAN PUTSKI
- 6—IVAN KOLOFF
- 7—VICTOR RIVERA
- 8—CHIEF JAY  
STRONGBOW
- 9—SPIROS ARION
- 10—FRED CURRY



2—BILLY  
ROBINSON



3—VERNE GAGNE



4—JERRY LAWLER

- 5—STAN HANSEN
- 6—GREG GAGNE
- 7—SUPER  
DESTROYER II
- 8—LARRY HENNIG
- 9—CRUSHER
- 10—RAY STEVENS



2—DUSTY RHODES



3—RIC FLAIR

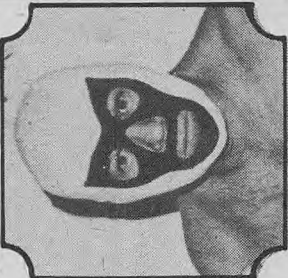


4—MIKE GRAHAM

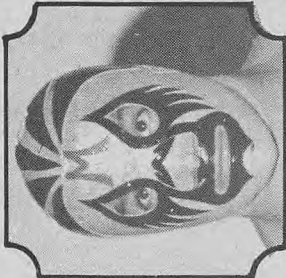
- 5—MASKED  
SUPERSTAR
- 6—JIM GARVIN
- 7—KEN PATERA
- 8—DINO BRAVO
- 9—MR. WRESTLING  
II
- 10—JESSE VENTURA



3—ANDRE  
THE GIANT

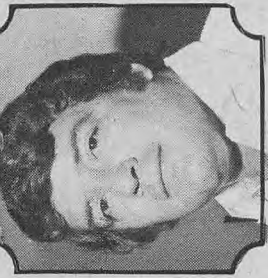


4—MR. WRESTLING II



5—MIL MASCARAS

- 6—DINO BRAVO
- 7—IVAN PUTSKI
- 8—JERRY LAWLER
- 9—JIM BRUNZELL
- 10—CHIEF JAY  
STRONGBOW



3—PAUL JONES

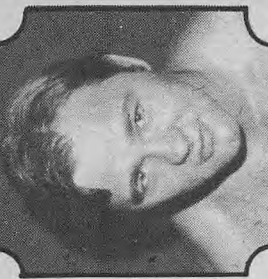


4—PETER MAIVIA



5—GREG  
VALENTINE

- 6—ABDULLAH THE  
BUTCHER
- 7—ERNIE LADD
- 8—MASKED  
SUPERSTAR
- 9—THE SHEIK
- 10—MONGOLIAN  
STOMPER



2—TONY GAREA &  
LARRY ZBYSZKO



3—PAUL ORNDORFF  
& JIMMY SNUKA



4—VALIANT  
BROTHERS

- 5—KEN PATERA &  
JOHN STUDD
- 6—MR. SAITO &  
MR. SATO
- 7—OLE ANDERSON  
& IVAN KOLOFF
- 8—GREG GAGNE &  
JIM BRUNZELL
- 9—DAVID & KEVIN  
VON ERICH
- 10—JERRY LAWLER  
& BILL DUNDEE

**N**EVER AGAIN. It is all over. Ended by a steel cage match.

After months of crazed hatred, fueled by betrayal and fanned by contempt, the feud is over.

Ended by a steel cage match.

"I have nothing left to prove," said an exhausted Bob Backlund.

"I'm tired of being cheated out of my wins by bribed refs," snorted High Chief Peter Maivia.

These wrestlers met in fabled Madison Square Garden. Seemingly everything had been tried to settle the gruesome affair.

Initially, attempts at peace had been made by Backlund. No avail. Maivia's venomous taunts stung the handsome WWF champion. As a matter of burning pride, he could not hold back.

So the two former friends attacked. And attacked. Nearly every type of match was used by promoters in a vain effort to resolve the convulsive contempt. Each time their hatred grew.

"I want to ruin him," shouted Maivia.

"I haven't hated anyone in my whole life the way I hate Low Chief Peter Maivia," Backlund screamed.

---

**Surrounded by cold steel and screaming fans, Bob Backlund and Peter Maivia resolved to settle their blinding hatred. Only one man would escape the night of torment. And only one man did**

---

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER

# A FEUD ENDS IN A C

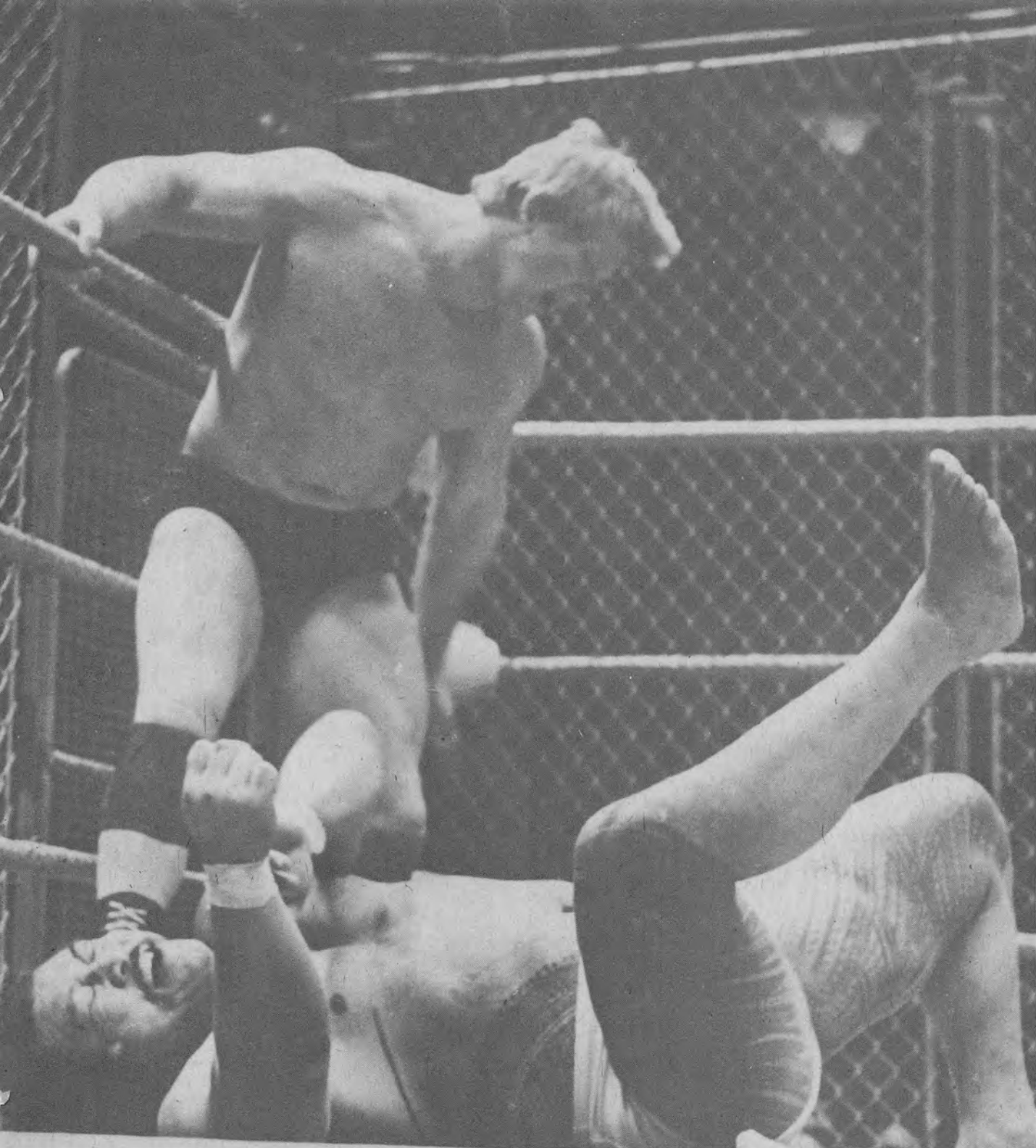
Wrestling in a steel cage appeared to be the only way Backlund and Maivia could end their rivalry.

Deafening shouts thundered the Garden as they climbed into the cage. Only one man would leave.

Which one would it be? "He'll be dead when I go through that door," warned Maivia.







# AGE

Backlund's characteristic respect of the rules quickly disappeared. Maivia charged and the men met in a churning

Above: Bob Backlund is enraged as he kicks Chief Peter Maivia. Top left: Backlund tries to leave the cage. Bottom left: A handful of hair helps Maivia and hinders Bob's attempts to get up.

entanglement in the center of the ring.

"My strategy was to whip him so I would never see that

cowardly face again," said Backlund.

Blood made a swift appearance on their faces. Cruel holds, gouges and vicious illegalities were the governing rules.

They wrestled knowing there were two ways to win: crawl through the door or climb up the cage and drop fifteen feet

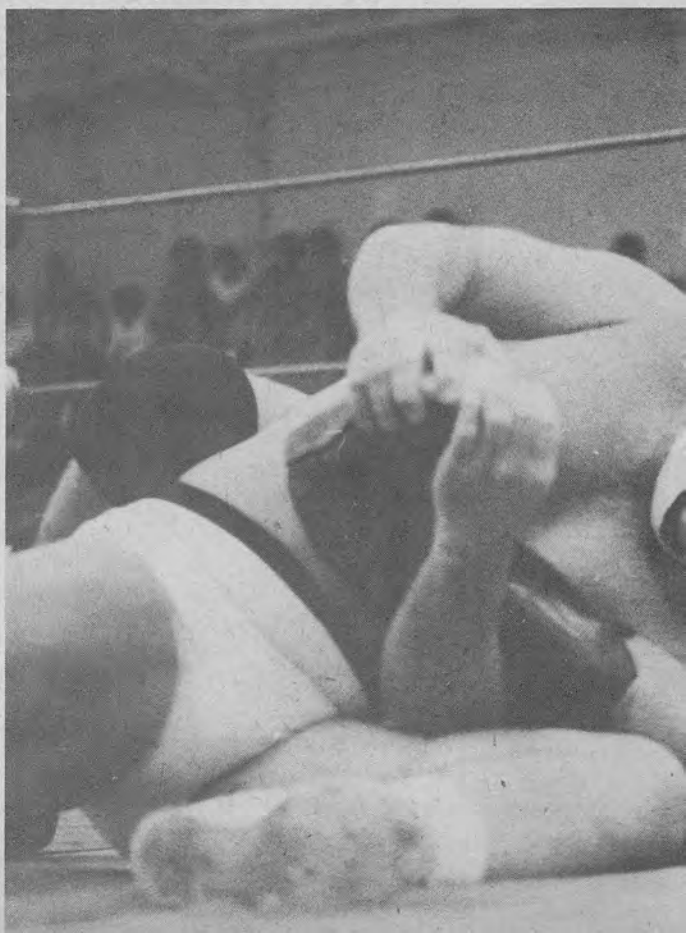
*(Continued on page 64)*



Mr. Wrestling II, the most popular wrestler in Georgia history, has signed contracts to spend some of his time in other states' arenas. And although he is not leaving Georgia entirely, neither is he going to spend all his time there. For many fans, not having Mr. Wrestling II around all the time is a heartbreaking occurrence

# HAS M DESERT

PHOTOS BY MAGGIE ADKINS





**M**ORE THAN ANY other wrestler, Mr. Wrestling II has been responsive to the wishes of his fans. Once, after an especially brutal match in which he felt his savage conduct was uncalled for, II considered retiring from wrestling.

As soon as word of his contemplations reached the fans, a tumultuous eruption of love cascaded over II.

Obviously, II was swayed by the fans' love and he reconsidered.

With creatures like Peter Maivia and Paul Jones turning rulebreaker, waves of concern covered II. Wasn't he the next likely candidate for rulebreaking?

"I would never let my fans down," he said.

Thus the touching relationship between Mr. Wrestling II and his fans is solidly founded and covered with love.

Until recently. Until Mr. Wrestling II surrendered to the challenges of new foes and new

challenges. You, you could get stale unless you live through new experiences.

"Because I'll be wrestling outside Georgia has nothing to do with either the quality of Georgia wrestlers or my fans. Absolutely not," II continued.

"At this stage of my career, I think I owe it to myself and to fans in other areas who have flooded my mailbox with letters pleading with me to come to their areas."

From opposite directions, two

# MR. WRESTLING II ED HIS FANS ?



arenas and made his shocking decision.

"I'm leaving Georgia to wrestle in New Orleans and Oklahoma City," II said, a frown apparent beneath his mask.

Leave Georgia? Leave your land, leave your throngs of loving fans?

**HOW COULD YOU DO THIS, MR. WRESTLING II?**

"Look, this wasn't something I decided over breakfast one morning. I agonized long and hard before accepting the offers," II said, fingering the contours of his mask.

"To keep alive, and I mean alive in both personal and professional terms, you must accept new

opinions collide with II's honorable pose.

"Mr. Moron II is running away," Abdullah the Butcher said through his interpreter, Ahab Abdoul. "Knowing he cannot vanquish me and knowing he is finished, he is trying to re-capture past glory by wrestling in front of the idiots in New Orleans and Oklahoma City. If he wants a real challenge, let him try to defeat me in a fair match."

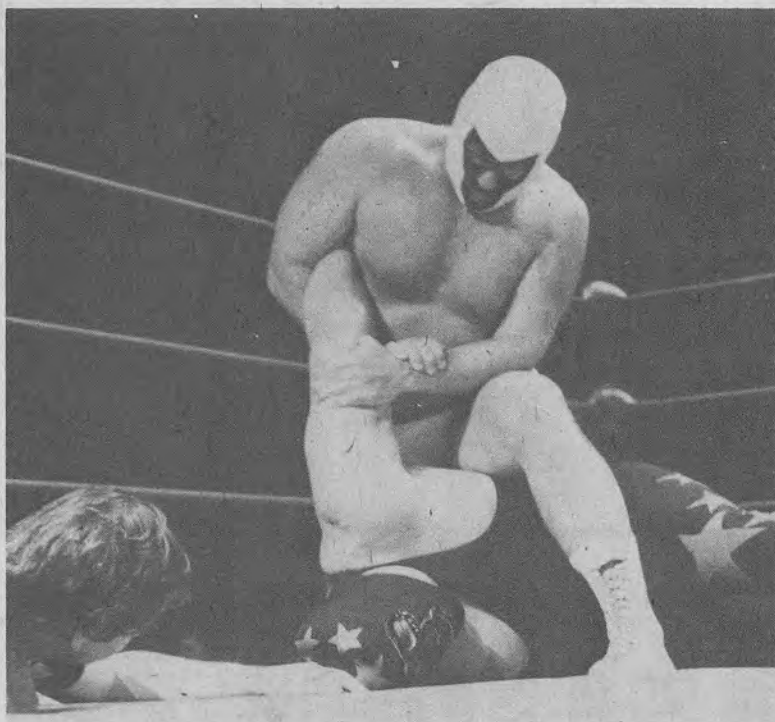
Certainly Mr. Wrestling II is not evading the challenges of creatures like Abdullah and Masked Superstar. Or is he?

"Ah, Abdullah is a big mouth. I won't dignify his remarks with a comment," II said.

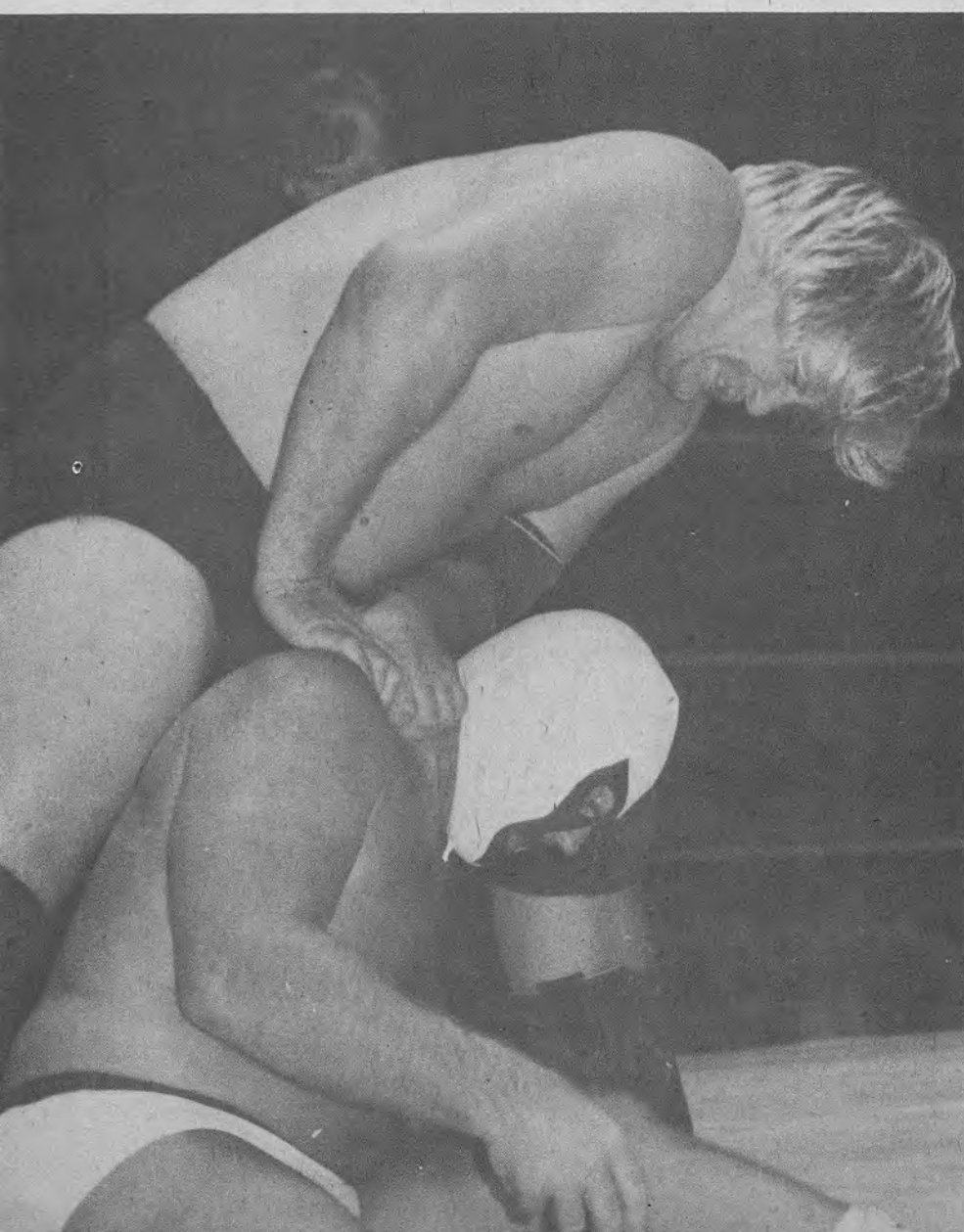
Words from persons situated just beyond the ring apron may be most important.

A group has been formed to protest and hopefully prevent Mr.

**Mr. Wrestling II locks up Stan Hansen. Hansen will be one of II's prime targets as II changes wrestling locales.**



Above left: Masked Superstar is helpless as II locks his arm. Above: The crazed Abdullah the Butcher chokes II. Left: Hansen, one of the masked man's most hated rivals, uses a nervehold to halt the popular grappler.



Wrestling II's departure. A loosely knit organization bonded by emotions, "Don't Go Away II" (DGAT), has circulated petitions containing thousands of signatures from II's fans.

"We don't want our II to leave," said Teddy Keefe, president of the organization and long-time Georgia wrestling fan. "We're afraid that if II leaves the area and wrestles without our support, he may be tempted to turn rulebreaker. It's happened before and it'll happen again."

A broad smile creases II's mask when told of DGAT's efforts.

"I won't turn rulebreaker, that's for sure. And my fans have to realize that I'll be back, sooner than they think. Mr. Wrestling II will return to Georgia." He grinned and adjusted his mask with confidence. □



# INSIDE WRESTLING

34

## capsule profile

### BULLDOG BROWER

Brower's eyes are ready to pop out of his head as he uses a foreign object on an unsuspecting Mighty Igor. Many wrestlers refuse to grapple with Brower because of his reputation. The question remains: Is he legally sane?



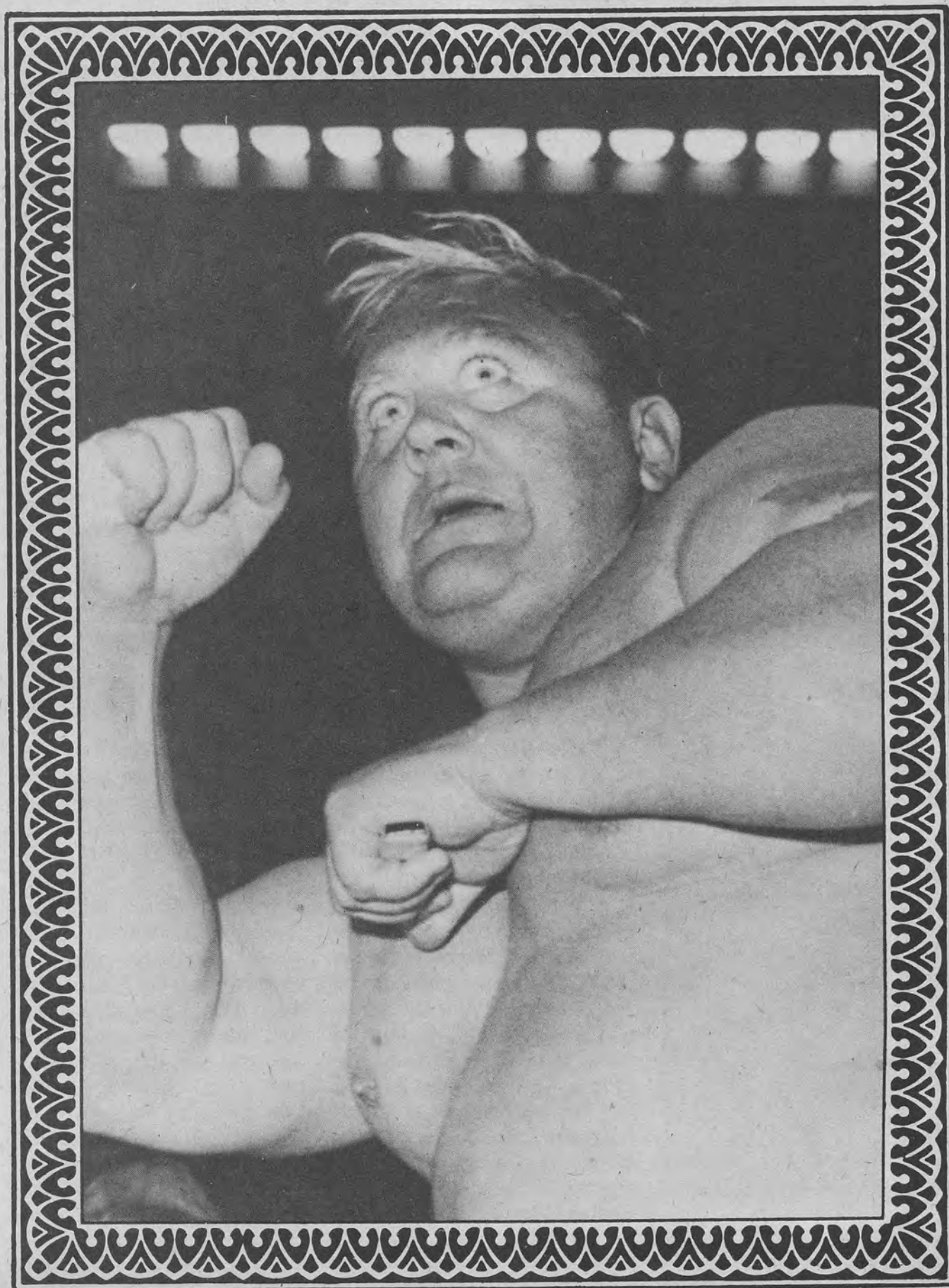
Bulldog Brower in a typical pose, raking the face of a helpless Johnny Powers. Brower shows no restraint when he enters the ring.



**R**UMORED TO BE the leftover of an ill-fated brain transplant experiment . . . Kept out of the WWF for years because he failed psychiatric examinations ("They asked nonsense questions. A bunch of yo-yos") . . . Former North American heavyweight champion . . . Brutal feud continues with beloved Mighty Igor ("I hate him worse than the plague") . . . Cannot keep a tag team partner ("Can't trust the sniveling dogs") . . . Been banned from countless arenas ("They're afraid of Brower Power") . . . Return to WWF is shrouded by mysterious motives ("Don't have to tell why I do things. I have only one boss: Me") . . .

Nickname stems from reputed dining on baked dog tails ("Throw in some peppers, few mushrooms and you get yourself a mighty fine feast") . . . Nerve spasms in gums earned him nickname "Juicyfruit" . . . Uncertain whether really interested in Bob Backlund's title or mere hospitalization of the young champ ("Come out and see, boys") . . . Currently managed by Captain Lou Albano ("Least he's got some brains in that beard") . . . Ignores all scientific wrestling holds . . . Perfected the horrifying "eyeball rake" . . . ("Don't like when they look at me") . . . A lunatic who should be banned from the sport. □

## CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



BULLDOG BROWER



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Each day, out of the thousands of letters we receive, hundreds of them are from fans asking the whereabouts of their favorite wrestler. In this special column, we will try to answer the questions you ask the most!



## **BULLDOG BROWER**

After a lengthy exile from the WWWF, this certifiable lunatic has returned to assault champion Bob Backlund and other wrestlers. Unwilling to fully explain his increasingly bizarre behavior, Brower hints that a devious plot may enable him to win the title.

## **ERNIE LADD**

Much like other pioneers, Ernie Ladd is blazing a new and potentially dangerous path: He is the first black rulebreaker ever to hit the Mid-Atlantic area. Ladd is predictably boastful of his invasion, saying, "They'll all be black . . . and blue, when I'm done."



## **STAN HANSEN**

Brave words and the threatened extermination of Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell precede Hansen's debut in the AWA. Hansen has vowed to break both Gagne and Brunzell's necks with his lariat, which is just what he did to Bruno Sammartino a few years ago.

## **BOBBY HEENAN**

Kicked out of the AWA, his wrestling family leaderless and his career jeopardized, Bobby Heenan is after fresh soil to spoil. Georgia is his new target. Reportedly, Heenan is plotting against Mr. Wrestling II.



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# ONE ON ONE

(Continued from Page 23)

them, that's why. You need people you can put your life with.

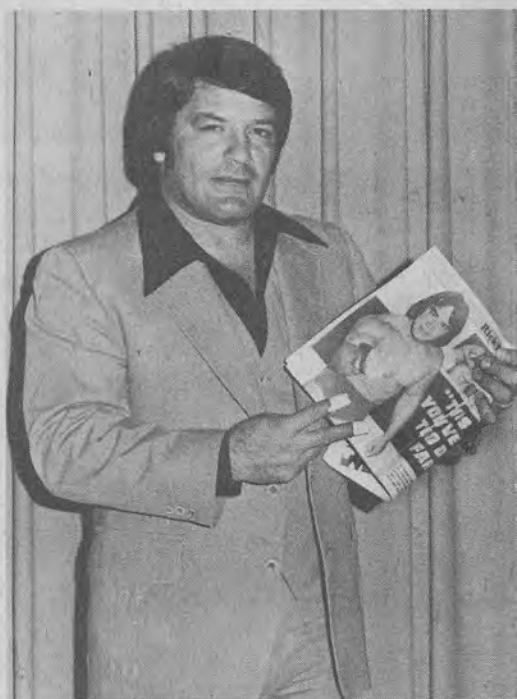
**PJ:** Like all the scientific wrestlers?

**BM:** I didn't say that, either.

**PJ:** Wonderful, kind generous men who push you aside at the first opportunity. That's ridiculous.

**BM:** What I'm saying, if you'd shut up for a minute, is that you have to be careful who you trust. I don't say that all scientific wrestlers are trustworthy. Look at you.

**PJ:** Mulligan, you're as ignorant as all the rest, as dumb as the fans and the media. Any man who proves himself a real friend, who doesn't betray me, is assured of my loyalty. I just happen to find more of



Paul Jones menacingly handles an article on Rick Steamboat in a previous issue of **INSIDE WRESTLING**. Jones ripped up the article and stomped on it.



Blackjack Mulligan slams NWA champion Harley Race's bloody face into a metal chair. Mulligan, a converted scientific wrestler, disagrees with Jones' move to rulebreaking.



them among rulebreakers. It's something about the role they're forced into.

**BM:** And I'm telling you that you can think rulebreakers are better, but you're wrong. Trust me.

**PJ:** Why? You turned on your friends.

**BM:** No, they turned on me. We had a plan to . . . it doesn't matter. Rulebreakers are low-down sneaks.

**PJ:** From my defensive response to Steamboat, I've come across a lot more rulebreakers and been sifting through some fine tag team offers. A lot of guys have asked to team with me.



Mulligan stands over his hated rival, Greg Valentine. Greg and Blackjack were once friends. Now Greg and Ric Flair are trying to maim Blackjack.

**BM:** And you think you can turn your back on them?

**PJ:** All I want is one true friend I can call on. I want the respect of my peers, not idiotic fans who know nothing.

**BM:** Turning rulebreaker won't get that for you, Jones.

**PJ:** Wait and see. It's gotten me further than anyone thought.

**BM:** Can't kill your roots. Believe me, I know. ☐

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## ON THE ROAD

(Continued from Page 8)



Brower seems to be looking toward some invisible inspiration as he prepares to dub Dino Bravo with a table. If this man is sane, I'd hate to see what a real lunatic is like! Hopefully, my investigative reporting concerning this mockery will result in a new, legitimate examination of Brower. But with Albano's influence, I doubt it.

promptly ate it and started laughing.

"Bravo," shouted Captain Lou Albano, Brower's manager.

Sighs were exchanged among the doctors. An attendant wheeled in a multi-colored maze. Blocks, round and square holes, plastic rings and a silver bell were included.

The object of this test was to see if Brower could distinguish between colors, sizes and shapes.

With an unsettling shriek, Brower tried to stuff the bell down the doctor's throat. The doctor moved to restrain Bulldog, but Brower seized the man's wrist and dug his teeth into the bone.

After brief chaos, Brower was strapped down. Obviously, he was as deranged as ever. Obvious to me. Obvious to anyone. Except five doctors. They pronounced him sane.

*Sane?*

"Oh, this is a glorious day, yes, a wonderful day for wrestling. Bulldog Brower is back and will be champ, the Captain promises that," Albano pronounced as he slapped Brower on the back and led him down the hall. For a brief moment, Albano paused before two of the physicians. I caught only a wink and three half-smiles.

No way Bulldog Brower is sane. He tried to coco-butt a sanitation truck parked outside the hospital. At no time did he respond to his name. Brower pole vaulted the thin line between sanity and bananas years ago.

Something is very, very wrong. The medical examination matched the interior of the hospital—white, for whitewash.

Or as in payoff. As in scandal.

Unfortunately, I hadn't seen any money change hands between Albano and the doctors. A wink is



not evidence, though it is a clue.

What I had to do was somehow get Brower to another team of psychiatrists. A team of psychiatrists not tainted by this mockery.



Brower is obviously handling a foreign object. Maybe that's how he obtains "Brower Power." I hope WWWF champ Bob Backlund sends Brower back to the zoo!

Standing in the hospital lobby, I was faced with a key decision. Follow Albano and Brower? Try to speak to the psychiatrists? Indecision is a characteristic of fools. I started to follow them.

I couldn't locate the two though they were only moments ahead of me. After a 10-minute search of the parking lot, I realized a decision had been reached for me. Fate had prevailed. I returned to the hospital to speak to the psychiatrists.

Fourth floor of City Central Hospital. Claiming to be a doctor, a brushed past the receptionist and headed straight for the psychiatrist's section. I searched for Brower's doctors' offices.

Their names weren't there. They had been phonies. I wheeled around in anger and saw Brower and Albano standing before me, grinning. (Editor's Note: This column will continue next month. ☐)

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## HAS THE NWA BANNED RICK STEAMBOAT?

(Continued from Page 33)



A determined Steamboat dropkicks Race (above). Many observers believe Race will not give Steamboat any more title shots because he knows Ricky is capable of winning the title. Steamboat throws Race over his shoulder (below).



Based on skill, Rick Steamboat is a deserving opponent for Harley Race. While not as experienced as other NWA contenders, his agility and courage make him a formidable foe. Thus, on talent, the NWA has no basis for rejecting Steamboat's bid.

If they wish to use the yardstick of preliminary achievements, Steamboat's conquest of Flair qualifies him for a title match. After many months of difficult battle, Steamboat upended the villainous Flair and won one of wrestling's most coveted titles. Again, Steamboat fulfills that specification.

Lack of attendance would be a faulty reason. With Steamboat's thousands of fans, a Race-Steamboat title match could fill dozens of arenas. The popular Steamboat is a huge gate draw.

Those three reasons are

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generally offered as the basis for a contender receiving a title match. Those were the reasons given to to Steamboat. He meets the requirements.

Then why isn't he signed and in training for the match?

Without appearing overly protective, it is likely that Race has something to do with this.

Contemplating a match against Rick Steamboat must terrify Race, especially after observing Steamboat's steady improvement the last few months.



An armlock has Ric Flair in great pain. Ricky beat Flair for the U.S. title.

As NWA champion, Race has considerable clout with officials. Perhaps he is blackmailing someone.

"Race has no input into our decision," snapped an NWA official. "Beyond that, I have no comment."

When reached by phone, Race was gruff and obnoxious.

"Big deal, Rick Steamboat won a title. Who'd he beat, Flair? That's like pinning Countess Lufthansa of Schickelberg. When he does something good, I'll wrestle him. And tell fans to stop bothering me with stupid letters," Race snarled.

Hesitant officials. A fearful champ. Those are the new obstacles in Rick Steamboat's career. ☐

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## BODYSLAM & PINFALLS

(Continued from Page 10)

The AWA lackeys soon realized that Bobby could not be stopped by anything less than banishment. Like any good dictatorship, they decided to make up phony charges and punish Bobby for them. And like any good dictatorship, they trampled justice and got what they wanted. Bobby was exiled from the AWA.

Thankfully, Bobby won't

Heenan aids AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel (right). A bloody Heenan comforts Blackjack Lanza (below).



starve. He's invested his fortune wisely and well. Still, there are some things money can't buy.

"I'd rather go without food," Bobby claims, "than be taken from my wrestlers. I feel like a symphony conductor who's been forbidden to see his musicians. There's so much music in his head, but there's no happiness until he can hear it played. There's so much more I want to do with wrestling, but there's no happiness until I can see my strategies executed."

"It took me years to find the best men to do justice to my genius. It was a careful process, but my success proves I chose brilliantly. Taking my wrestlers from me is the cruelest thing anyone could have ever done."

"I should've expected it. Little



people hate the great ones. It's always punks who assassinate heroes. Blackburn is a guy who spends his life stabbing people in the back.

"I don't know what I'll do now. Maybe go to Atlanta, I don't know. Blackjack Lanza wants to go with me. It won't be a hopeless situation. Leaving will just break my heart. But you've got to expect that in this business. Sooner or later, termites will eat away any foundation. Blackburn, the stooge of Gagne and others, is the biggest termite of all."

"There's so much I wanted to do. So much I could've done."

There is still something wrestling fans can do. Write to the AWA offices and demand Heenan's reinstatement immediately. Show thugs like Blackburn that they can't ride roughshod over wrestling and America. Speak out against injustice. The very fabric of our society can be kept whole only if justice is given to Bobby Heenan.

In the meantime, Bobby Heenan suffers for being too great. That's a crime to the slime that runs the AWA. Cry for Bobby Heenan. Cry for us all. □



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# BOBBY HEENAN

(Continued from Page 35)

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Heenan displays his uncontrollable temper by attacking Winnipeg promoter Al Tomko (above). AWA president Blackburn is not the first innocent man Heenan has punched. Heenan in an introspective pose (below). Bobby quickly made the decision to continue his managerial career in Georgia. We hope the great scientific grapplers of the state are prepared for the havoc, chaos and confusion Heenan is sure to bring.



"This is a conspiracy on the part of the promoters to try and dismantle this unstoppable group of men," snarled Bockwinkle. "It's not going to work. We've weathered storms before and we'll weather this one. It's just a matter of time before our attorneys have this unfair and ridiculous suspension lifted."

More brave, hollow words.

Greg Gagne has probably suffered more than his share of run-ins with Heenan. His reaction to Heenan's suspension was a curious blend of relief and frustration.

"To be honest, I would've liked to have been the one to put Heenan on the shelf. I can't begin to count the number of times he stuck his nose in when one of his boys was on the verge of losing. Now, when we get some of those clowns in the ring,

after a series of brutal matches in which he injured foe after foe. First Orton, then Heenan.

Can Nick Bockwinkle, Bobby Duncum, and Blackjack Lanza be far behind?

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we'll be able to concentrate on winning the match . . . not looking for Heenan to sneak in."

Many of the "family's" bouts ended when Heenan interfered. Such a device was used to enable his champions, like Bockwinkle, to retain their belts.

For many years, Bobby Heenan was the symbol of devious wrestling in the AWA. Heenan's name was synonymous with rulebreaking. And his triumphs, however gained, are indisputable.



Heenan chokes Greg Gagne (below). Bobby is hated by all AWA scientific wrestlers and they are glad he is leaving the area. Peace prevails at last!

Two vastly different patterns may now emerge. Young, scientific wrestlers will once more have a fair chance. No longer concerned with managerial treachery, men like Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell can concentrate exclusively on wrestling.

Yet Nick Bockwinkle's considerable talents may also finally emerge. He is strong, shrewd and skilled. Beneath his bravado and Heenan's ugly strategies, lies an immensely talented grappler.

But now he must prove it. □

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## BEHIND THE DOOR

(Continued from Page 12)

their pain would be too much for me to endure. I would clean up as a rulebreaker, you know, but it would be mental torture. You've got to live with yourself 24 hours-a-day. I wouldn't be able to do it. My fans are the ones that keep me going. Let everyone know that I do not associate with rulebreakers in any way. The only time I am with them is when I am scientifically tying them into knots. Other than that, I never spoke to them. In fact, I make it a point to avoid them."

Mr. Wrestling II ended our conversation by saying, "When you sit down at your typewriter, make sure you tell my fans I love each and every one of them. It sounds corny, but it's how I really feel. Please tell it like it is." Don't I always?

That's the story. I believe it to be true.

\*\*\*



The beloved Mr. Wrestling II, relaxing at his Atlanta home. He wanted me to tell all the fans how much he loved them. Will he turn rulebreaker?



CONFIDENTIAL TO LINDA P. OF LAKEWORTH, FLORIDA: Thanks for the inspirational letter. It's fans of rulebreakers like you who keep me going!

\*\*\*

As you know, Dusty Rhodes recently cut a record in New York. He has also written many songs. He brought his guitar to the arena last week and played a few for me. I got a chuckle out of the one about Lou Albano. It went:



Dusty Rhodes, the recording artist and wrestling superstar, parading around the ring, wearing his favorite T-shirt. His song about Lou Albano is great!

Albano, Albano,  
The ugliest man that I know.  
He's got a face that looks like  
a railroad map,  
He can be trusted no more  
than a sneaky sap.  
His crooked face,  
Wears a crooked beard,  
I don't know anybody in  
rasslin',  
Who looks so weird.  
Albano, Albano,  
The ugliest man that I know.

(Continued on page 58)

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## BEHIND THE DOOR

(Continued from Page 57)



The exciting star of the Fiji Islands, Jimmy Snuka, is flying high above the ring. His destination is the prone body of Bruiser Brodie. Snuka is a sure bet to be a future champion. He is currently co-holder of the NWA tag team title with Paul Orndorff.

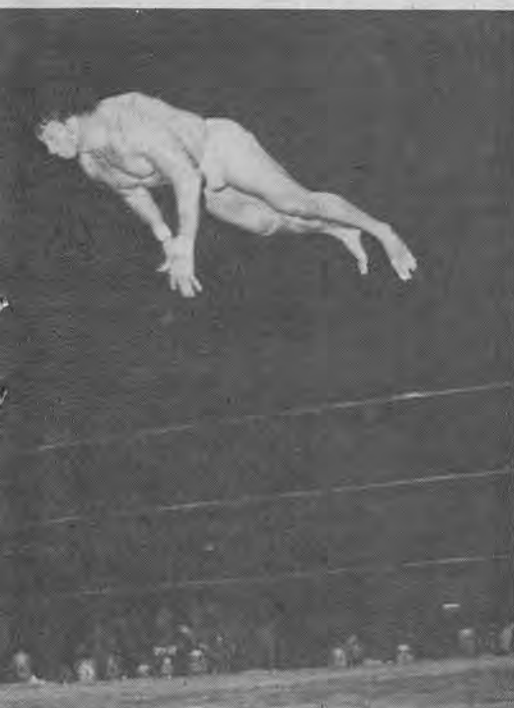
Two of wrestling's brightest, but least publicized stars are Ted DiBiase and Jimmy Snuka.

DiBiase, who wrestles in the St. Louis area, is vastly improved under the guidance of the Funk brothers (Terry and Dory Jr.). He wants to own the NWA championship belt currently worn by Harley Race.

Snuka, from the Fiji Islands, displays the greatest aerial tactics of any young wrestler I've seen. His idol is the great masked Mexican, Mil Mascaras. Snuka and Paul Orndorff currently hold the NWA tag team title.

I am willing to bet my future paychecks that either or both of these super talents will win world titles before too long.





\*\*\*

I have had it up to my eyeballs with Dan Shocket. He calls scientific wrestlers "men without guts." I think the guy really believes that. An anonymous writer offered Dan \$10,000 to wrestle Dino Bravo, Rick Steamboat and Bruno Sammartino. Let's not get ridiculous! Those men are too busy to waste their time with Dan. Besides, any one of them could destroy the squirt with little effort.

So here is a challenge to Mr. Shocket. I will wrestle Dan, no holds barred, in a "Loser Quits the Magazine Match." If I win, Dan will pick up his typewriter and leave the staff of **INSIDE WRESTLING** forever. Rule-breakers will no longer have a crazed writer to continually praise their evil ways. If Dan wins, well . . .

I think it's worth the chance! ☐

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# THE INSIDER

(Continued from Page 18)



Bobby Heenan in his prime, carefully instructing two of his grapplers, Bobby Duncum and Blackjack Lanza (above). I uncovered a rumor that Heenan intentionally got thrown out of the AWA so he could begin managing in Georgia. The whole story is very mysterious and I will check into it further. Steve Keirn (right) is telephoning friends to tell them that he is recovered from his recent leg injury. Wrestling fans throughout the world are glad to hear the excellent news. Keirn is talented, popular and charismatic. His absence was felt most heavily by Florida fans.

"Yes, Steve, he has some strange steps. Sometimes he wanders off to the tables and sticks salt and pepper shakers in his mouth. Sometimes his tongue juts out of his mouth in perfect rhythm to the music. Also a night I'll never forget was when he motioned to everyone to get off the dance floor and he did a whole routine by himself. It was great. The man is like Travolta. He has a natural charisma and as a dancer he is learning rapidly. Besides, my business has gone up tremendously since he started coming."

Abdullah the Butcher a top disco dancer?! I never would have believed it unless I saw it. I

guess he isn't as bad as we sometimes make him out to be. But I still wouldn't do "the bump" with him!

## RUMOR VS. FACT

**RUMOR:** Bobby Heenan intentionally got himself thrown out of the AWA, knowing he had to leave anyway. Heenan had already been licensed by Georgia promoters to manage there at a hefty increase in salary. Bobby purposely punched AWA President Stanley Blackburn, knowing Blackburn would bar him for life. This way Heenan would avoid criticism that he deserted his "family."

**FACT:** The truth is still hidden in this case. Heenan was thrown out of the AWA for hitting the president of the association. But an AWA source told me Heenan was shocked when Blackburn told him he was through in the AWA. This source also swears Bobby applied for a Georgia manager's license one week after his AWA suspension. I'll keep working on this strange story. More to come.



## INJURY REPORT

**STEVE KEIRN** reports that the injury to his leg is healing and he can wrestle at full strength again. Everyone is glad to hear that news. **THE MONGOLIAN STOMPER** has developed a rare fungus and rash around his rib cage. One doctor told me the rash usually develops from a lack of bathing. Will somebody please tell the Stomper that there is a new invention. It's called soap.

**DUSTY RHODES'** elbow is very sore. He may have to limit the number of bionic elbows he throws in future matches. "I guess my elbow ain't so bionic after all," the Dream said. "But the little point of the elbow is so sore that it looks like a rotten raspberry."

Catch you later.

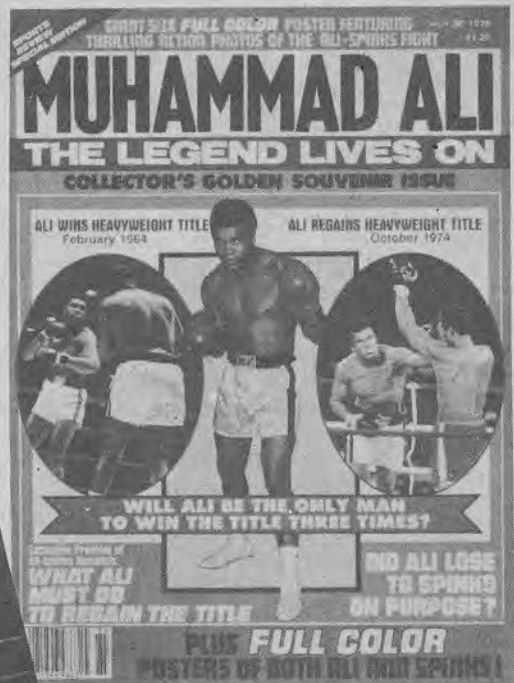




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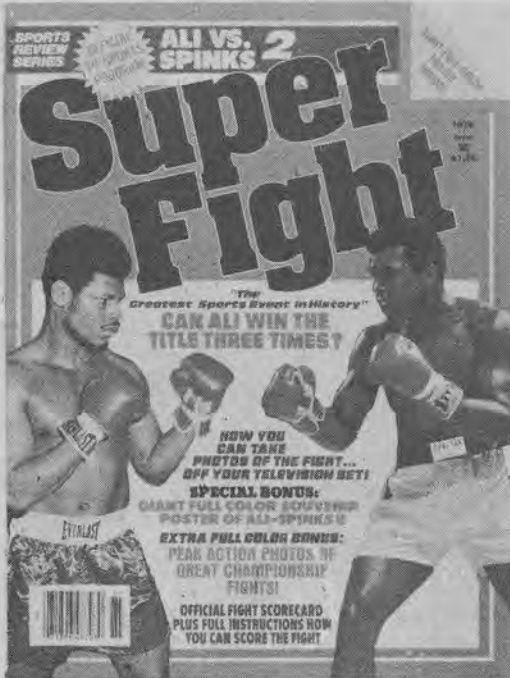
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# A FEUD ENDS IN A CAGE

(Continued from Page 39)



The champion is about to whip Maivia across the ring. Maivia will smash into the cage and his head will split open. Bob hates cage matches but participated to finally settle his feud with Maivia.

onto the outside ring.

Consistent with their reckless intensity, they chose the most dangerous way.

Like oversized flies, they scampered up the sides of the cage. Backlund struggled ahead. Maivia was determined to prevent Backlund's climb.

Snarling and bloodied, Maivia seized Backlund's trunks and pulled him back

toward the floor.

Using a brutal backhanded thrust of the forearm, Backlund beat Maivia off.

"This was the last time. There was no holding back for me," insisted Backlund.

Indeed, every fiber of ferocity was unleashed in the steel cage. With currents of blood drowning them, with bones wearied and muscles ex-



hausted, with eyes blurry from fatigue and eardrums deafened by the tumultuous shrieks of the fans, they finished the match.

As a moment of unparalleled beauty, the victory of Bob Backlund will be recorded in wrestling history. Finally shoving Maivia aside, he chanced the risky drop to the ground.



A bloody but happy Bob Backlund parades around the ring after the savage battle.

"What choice did I have?" he later asked.

Soaring through the air, Backlund landed heavily, awkwardly, yet triumphantly. He raised his aching arms as a smile creased the bloody face.

He had won. The rivalry was over.

"Now I don't ever want to hear about High Coward Maivia," said Backlund. "I don't want anything to do with him. If I see or hear about him, I will throw up on the wall."

Yet a lingering doubt continues to curl mysteriously around the rivalry. Somehow, the hate is too powerful to end. Somehow, it will be rekindled. Wait and see. ☐

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# I'll guide you into your own

● While keeping your  
you like to gross \$14 or

*a true story*

own business was so much easier than I had always thought . . . why the day to day guidance of a successful worldwide organization could assure my own success.

I read the booklet several times. It just seemed too good to be true. I talked it over with my wife. We decided that **now** was the time to make the forward step . . . there was no reason to keep postponing an income increase.

So, I applied for a Duraclean dealership and I was accepted. I stayed with my job . . . ran a few ads . . . sent some mailings . . . contacted a few stores and told my friends about the superior services I was now equipped to give them. Evenings and Saturdays, I rendered the service. As the business grew, I added servicemen.

I found that I didn't have to develop a single idea myself. Every step had been prepared for me and pre-tested. Hundreds of other men had already proven my methods successful.

It didn't take long to see that I was making three to four times (yes, 3 to 4 times) as much per hour in my own business as in my printing job. So, after only seven months with a good following of customers, I quit my job to go full time on my own. In the meantime, I had enjoyed all this extra income on top of my salary.

Each day, we realized what a **serious** mistake not mailing that coupon would have been . . . and how that little act that seemed so trivial at the time actually changed our lives.

The steadily growing income brought us many things we could not afford before. My efforts were so much more productive. I scheduled my time to my own liking. When we wanted a day or two off, we took it. I worked hard but, if I wanted to be home early or quit at noon, I did.

I became so enthusiastic about this business and so appreciative of what it had brought my family that, whenever a man opened a dealership near me, I helped him get a quick start.

The company learned about this and had each new dealer in my section of Michigan spend a day with me. One day the president of Duraclean Company asked me how I would like to move to Headquarters and spend my entire time helping dealers to increase their sales and profits.

That was good news to my ears. Since then I have worked with hundreds of our dealers in their own towns and at regional meetings, con-

SOME YEARS AGO I was a printer in a small Michigan town.

I drew a pretty fair pay check but it wouldn't stretch far enough to provide the kind of living I wanted for my wife and five children.

Then one day I was reading a magazine just as you now are and I saw an ad. It intrigued me. It offered me the steadily growing income I had always hoped for. It said I would have greater security and personal independence . . . and that's what I had been wanting.

I was a little skeptical, but I said to myself, "for a postage stamp I can find out." So I mailed the coupon. In a few days, I got a letter with a booklet that gave the whole story. It opened my eyes. I could see why owning my



# step by step thriving business

## present job, would \$21 profit per hour?

by Bob Ferrel

ventions and dealer group meetings.

Incidentally I sold my dealership at a good profit. If for any reason a dealer wants to sell, we maintain a service to locate buyers and help him sell.

Our job here at headquarters is to show each individual Duraclean dealer how to use his own abilities to bring him greatest success.

### It's Easier than You Think To Build Your Own Business

If you've wanted to BE YOUR OWN BOSS... to become financially independent and have a fast growing income, now YOU CAN. And you own a Nationally Advertised business.

You can stay at your present job while your customer list grows... then switch to full time, lining up jobs for your servicemen to do. One job a day brings a good starting income.

If you hire two servicemen (full or part time) while you keep your job, the national price guide provides you a gross profit of \$14 an hour on their work and this is much easier to do than you think. **We show you how...** step by step. That's \$490 for a 35 hour week.

Your gross profit on three servicemen is \$21 per hour. An efficient Duraclean dealer can gross \$7 per hour on EACH serviceman plus \$12 an hour on any service he himself renders. The 24 page illustrated booklet we'll mail you (with no obligation) explains how most of your gross profit becomes **clear net profit**. Your income is limited only by the number of servicemen you employ.

You can operate from a shop, office, or your home. Equipment is light and portable.

At the start, you may want to render service yourself... or you can start with full or part time servicemen. This business is easy to learn... easy to start... so easy to service that women dealers do it. We prefer you have no experience... not have to "unlearn" old ways.

We are NOW enlarging this worldwide system of individually-owned service businesses. If you are reliable, honest and willing to work to become financially independent, we invite you to mail the coupon.

When you receive our illustrated booklet, you will see the way we show you **step by step** how to quickly get customers... and still more customers from their recommendations.

You have 7 superior services that are rendered "on location" in homes, offices, hotels, theaters, clubs, motels and institutions.

These are not ordinary services. You have the prestige and endorsement of leading furniture makers and carpet mills, of National Magazine editors, of Research and Testing Laboratories.

National magazine advertising explains superior merits of **your** services, builds **your** customer confidence and brings job leads to **you**.

Stores, upholsterers, insurance adjusters, and decorators refer jobs to our dealers. These year 'round services are in constant demand.

### Start Small, Grow Big in this Booming Business

Many men have said to us, "I can't afford to give up my job till I know I have a sure thing... a sound business that will provide both security and a better living for my family."

That made sense to us so we worked out such a plan... and those same men are now enjoying a Duraclean dealership in many communities. You don't experiment. You use **tested, proven** methods. You have **our backing and "know how."**

Does this appeal to you? Don't decide now. Mail the coupon so you'll have the facts to decide wisely. There is no obligation. You'll then know whether this is what you want.

You can start small and grow big.

Our first service, the care of upholstery and carpets not only cleans, it enlivens the fibers... revives dull colors. Pile rises with **new life**. There's no harsh machine scrubbing. No soaking. Mild aerated foam lightly applied lifts out dirt, grease, many unsightly spots like magic. Furnishings are used again in a few hours.

Government figures show service businesses are **growing faster** than industries and stores... \$750 million yearly potential just in rug and furniture cleaning. Your **6 other services** are explained in the free booklet we'll mail you.

Only \$1985 starts you in YOUR OWN business. And we have enough confidence in your success that we finance the balance of the total cost of \$5900, with no interest or finance charges.

It is surprisingly easy to learn this business. You can decide from the information we will send you whether to apply for a dealership. So, with **no obligation whatever**, mail the coupon TODAY. Cut it out NOW so you won't forget to mail it.

**Mail this coupon TODAY**  
**It may put you in business**

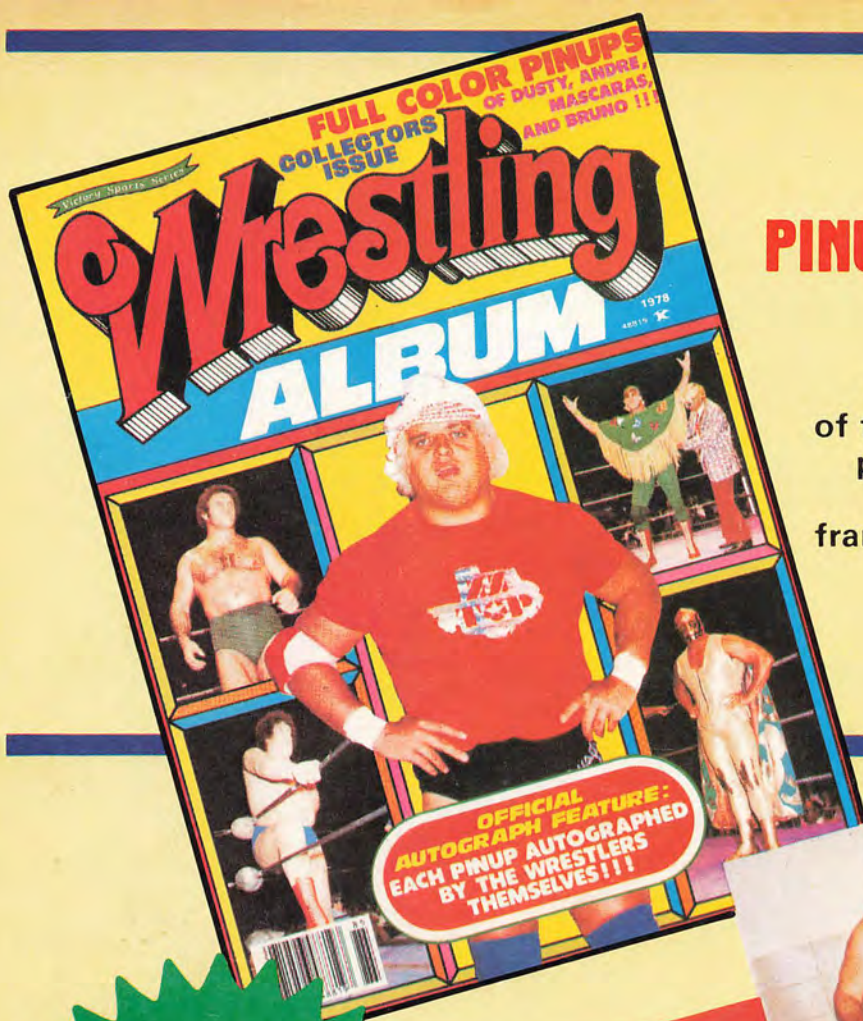
**Duraclean International**

**9-965 Duraclean Bldg., Deerfield, Ill 60015**

**With no obligation**, mail 24 page illustrated booklet telling how and why I can quickly increase my income and family security **while still employed**, how you'll help finance me. No salesman will call on me.

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